GOLD KEY
SOLAR
STILL ONLY 12¢
DOCTOR SOLAR
MAN OF THE ATOM
10000-403
MARCH
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Solar discovers an undersea city which holds the secret of the vanishing oceans!

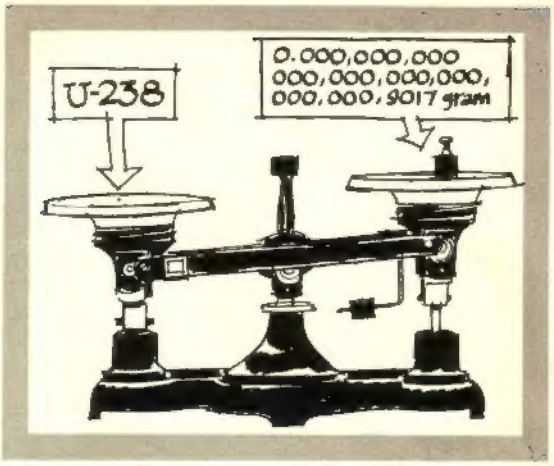
KEYS OF KNOWLEDGE

ATOMIC ENERGY

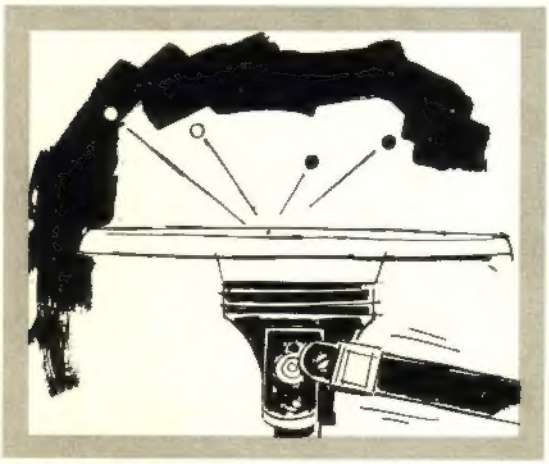
NUMBER 10

RADIOACTIVE DECAY IN THE URANIUM SERIES

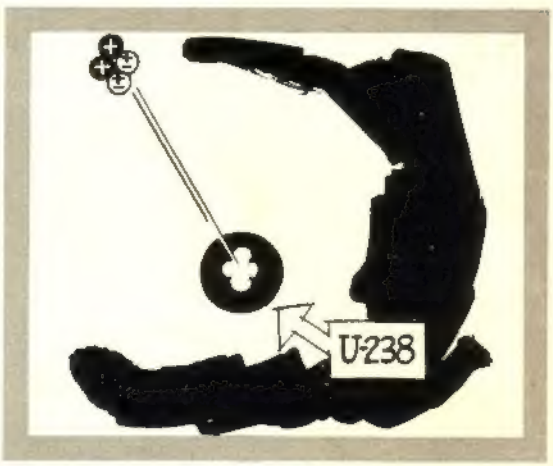
This is one of a series of information features in Gold Key Comics. Collect the whole series for useful knowledge.



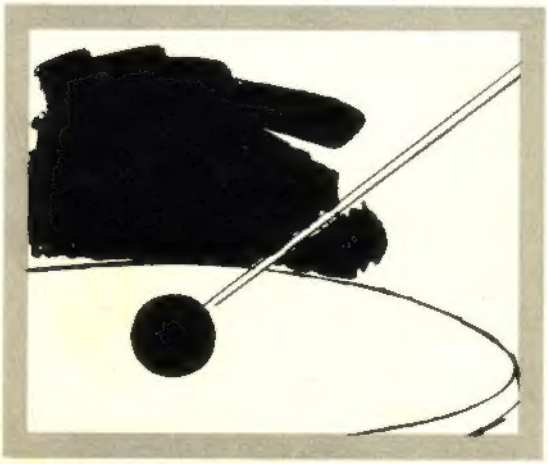
The word *isotope* distinguishes matter of *different* atomic weights of the *same* element. Isotopes of uranium include



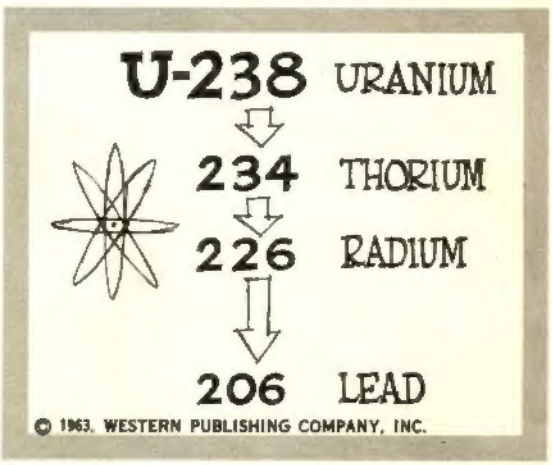
U-238, U-235 and U-234. Radioactivity breaks down an element to its lighter isotope or to an entirely *new* element.



Thus, when the U-238 nucleus explodes, since the ejected alpha particle has 2 positive charge units and 4 mass units,



. . . the residual nucleus has 2 charge units less and is 4 mass units lighter. It is now the nucleus of a new element, *thorium*.



Later in the decay series, we again get uranium. Its new isotope is 234, and so on down to lead.

DOCTOR SOLAR

VANISHING OCEANS

DURING ITS FIRST TRIAL DIVE, THE *ATOMISCAPHE*, A NEW ATOMIC-POWERED DEEP-SEA VESSEL, SIGHTS AN EVEN MORE FANTASTIC OBJECT PLUNGING DOWN TOWARD THE SEA-BOTTOM AT INCREDIBLE SPEED!

N-S-S-4-4 TO B-A-S-E-S-I-G-H-T-E-D U-N-D-E-R-S-E-A *U-F-O!* W-I-L-L F-O-L-L-O-W A-N-D R-E-P-O-R-T M-O-R-E L-A-T-E-R.

WILL ANYBODY *BELIEVE* OUR MESSAGE?

WHEN THE NEWS REACHES GAIL SANDERS AND DR. SOLAR AT ATOM VALLEY...

GOOD HEAVENS! WAS A *"DIVING SAUCER"* REALLY SEEN BY THE ATOMISCAPHE'S CREW?--OR JUST *IMAGINED?*

ISN'T THAT THE CRAFT SKIPPERED BY YOUR BROTHER, GAIL?

SOLAR 7-63/3

YES, AND IF JIM IS WRONG, HE WILL BE IN *PLENTY* OF HOT WATER!

EASY, GAIL! WAIT FOR HIS *NEXT* REPORT!

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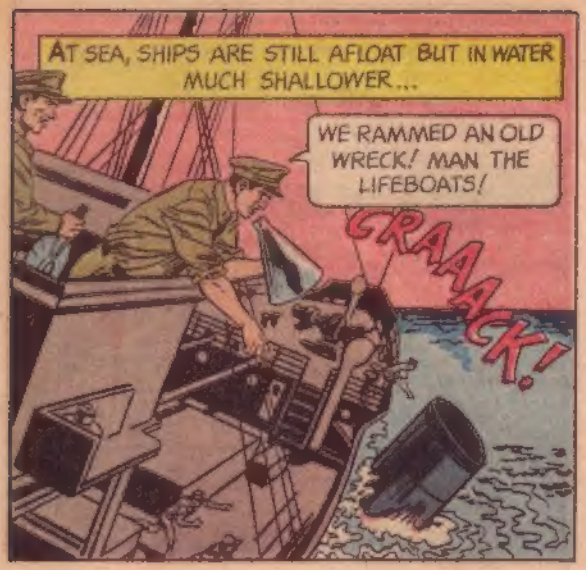
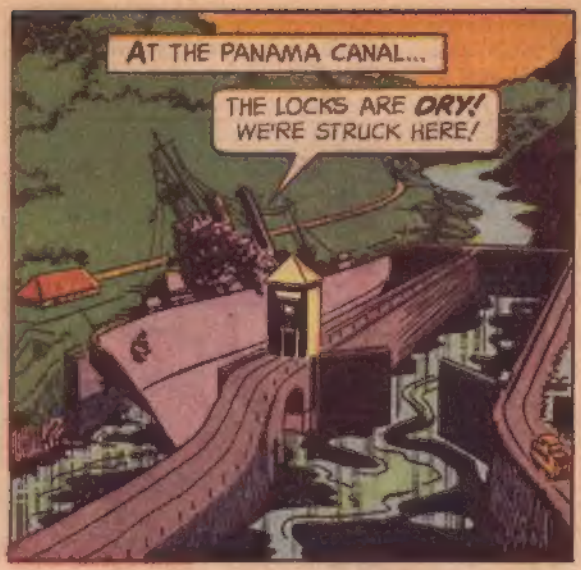
CHANGES OF ADDRESS should reach us five weeks in advance of the next issue date. Give both your old and new address enclosing if possible your old address label.

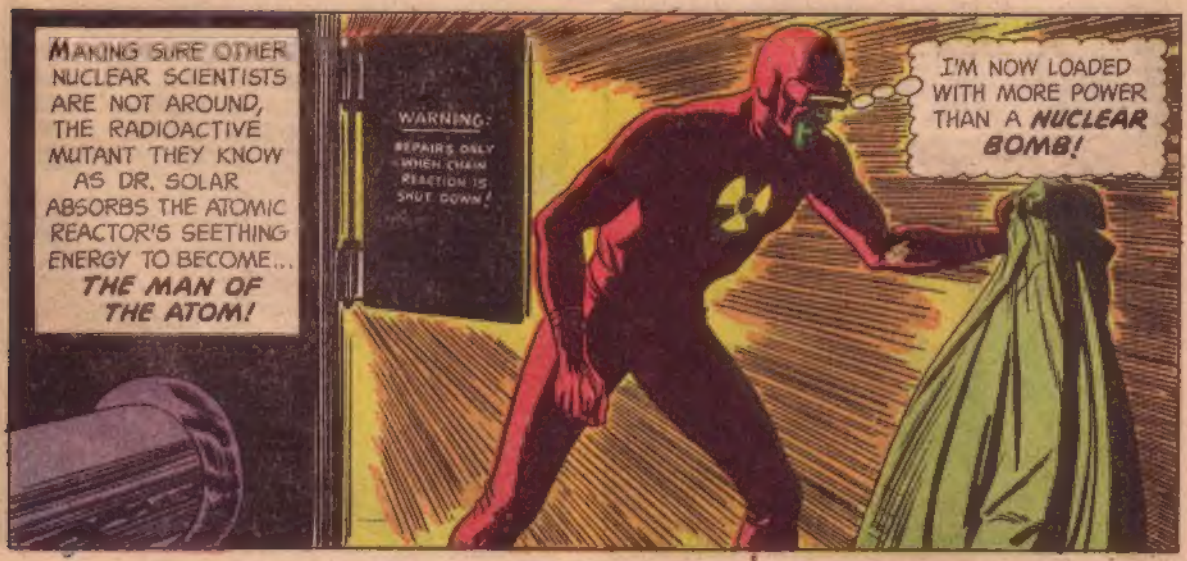
IF YOUR BROTHER IS RIGHT, AN UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT UNDER-SEA IS THE YEAR'S MOST SENSATIONAL NEWS!
SOLAR! GAIL! LISTEN TO THIS!
AS DR. CLARKSON, HEAD OF THE ATOM VALLEY PROJECT, READS A BULLETIN...
THE COAST GUARD CLAIMS THE SEA LEVEL HAS DROPPED! AND IT'S STILL GOING DOWN ... IT'S AS IF THE OCEANS ARE DRYING UP!
THAT TOPS THE DIVING SAUCER REPORT! IF TRUE, IT COULD BE DISASTROUS!
ALREADY, THE EFFECTS OF THE VANISHING OCEAN ARE BEING FELT!---IN ONE AREA, A WHALE IS STRANDED BY THE RECEDING WATER...
...AND AT OTHER NORMALLY BUSY PORTS, HUGE SHIPS STAND MOTIONLESS, THEIR HULLS IMBEDDED IN THE SOFT HARBOR BOTTOMS!


AT SEA, SHIPS ARE STILL AFLOAT BUT IN WATER MUCH SHALLOWER...
WE RAMMED AN OLD WRECK! MAN THE LIFEBOATS!
GRAAACK!


AT THE PANAMA CANAL...
THE LOCKS ARE ORY! WE'RE STRUCK HERE!

DAYS LATER AT ATOM VALLEY, GAIL'S PRIVATE PROBLEM GROWS WORSE!
SORRY, DR. SANDERS! NO MORE MESSAGES FROM YOUR BROTHER! THE ATOMISCAPHE IS NOW LISTED AS MISSING!
J-JIM!

MY BR-BROTHER... I'LL NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN!
MAYBE YOU WILL, GAIL, IF I GET INTO ACTION FAST ENOUGH!

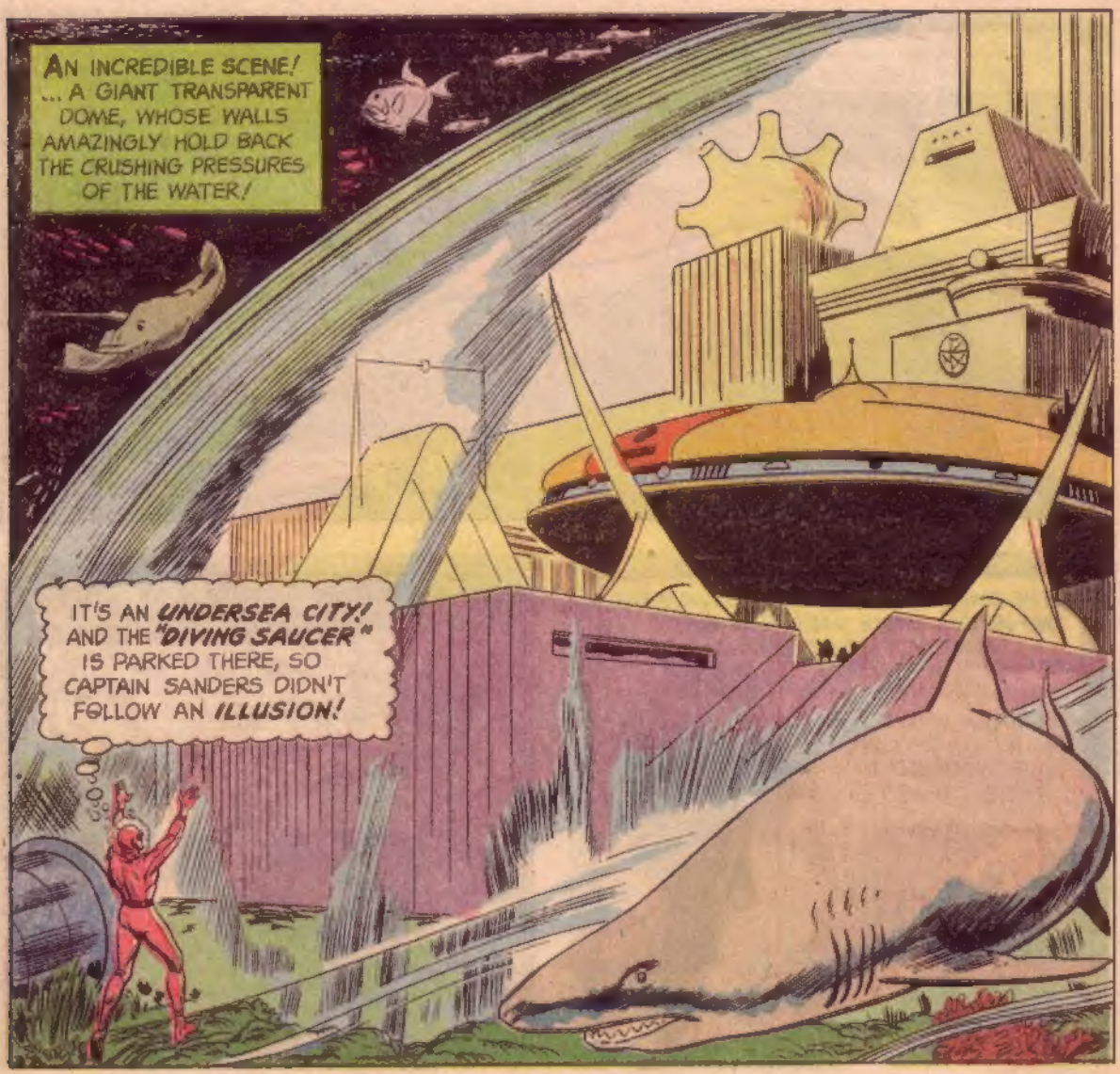

MAKING SURE OTHER NUCLEAR SCIENTISTS ARE NOT AROUND, THE RADIOACTIVE MUTANT THEY KNOW AS DR. SOLAR ABSORBS THE ATOMIC REACTOR'S SEETHING ENERGY TO BECOME... THE MAN OF THE ATOM!
WARNING:
REPAIRS ONLY WHEN CHAIN REACTION IS SHUT DOWN!
I'M NOW LOADED WITH MORE POWER THAN A NUCLEAR BOMB!

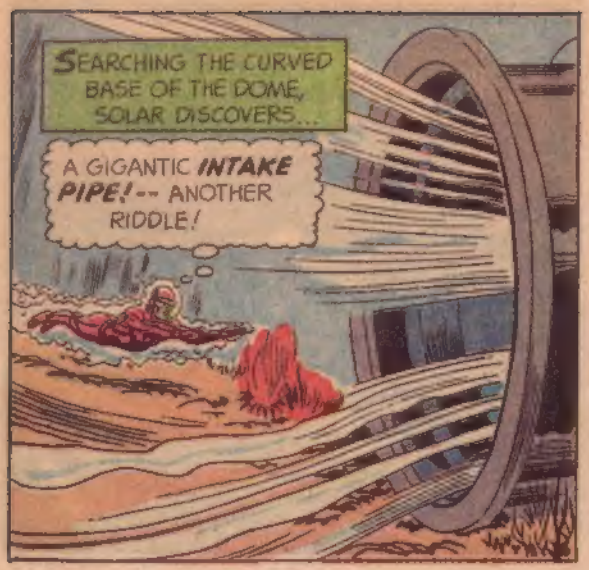
BUT UNLIKE A BOMB, THE LIVING CHAIN-REACTION LEAVES ATOM VALLEY QUIETLY AS A STREAK OF LIGHT UNNOTICED IN BROAD DAYLIGHT...
A SPLIT-SECOND LATER, THE HIGH-ENERGY LIGHT WAVE REACHES THE SPOT WHERE THE ATOMISCAPHE WAS LAST SEEN...
IN THE LIGHTLESS DEPTHS, SOLAR CREATES HIS OWN ILLUMINATION...
HMM... NO SIGN OF THE ATOMISCAPHE AROUND HERE.
MUST RESUME HUMAN FORM TO CONSERVE MY ENERGIES! BUT NOW I'LL NEED OXYGEN TO FUNCTION!
BETWEEN THE NUCLEAR WONDERMAN'S HANDS CRACKLES A POWERFUL ELECTRIC ARC, WHICH SPLITS THE WATER INTO ITS TWO BASIC INGREDIENTS, HYDROGEN AND OXYGEN!

SOON HIS WHOLE BODY BECOMES AN ELECTRO-LYZER WHICH FORMS A LIFE-SUPPORTING BUBBLE OF OXYGEN AROUND HIM! NEXT HE DIRECTS ENERGY THROUGH HIS EYES AND SCANS WIDE SWEEPS AROUND HIM WITH RADAR-LIKE IMPULSES...
BEFORE LONG, AN IMAGE BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE AS THE STEEL-HULLED ATOMISCAPHE REFLECTS BACK THE IMPULSES!
QUICKLY, USING HIS ENERGY AS ELECTROMAGNETIC POWER, HE IS DRAWN THROUGH THE WATER TOWARD THE LOST VESSEL!
AS HE REACHES THE CRAFT, THE MAN OF THE ATOM EMITS AN X-RAY WHICH PENETRATES THE THICK HULL...
EMPTY!--BUT THE GONDOLA SEEMS AIR-TIGHT! WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO THE CREW?
SOLAR SWITCHES BACK TO LIGHT TO PIERCE THE UNDERSEA DARKNESS...
PERHAPS I'LL LEARN MORE IF I CHECK THE HATCHWAY ON THE OTHER SIDE!

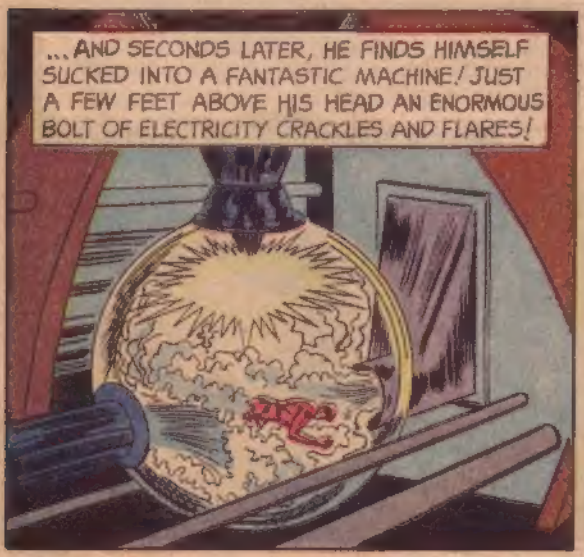
A BIG TUBE LEADING FROM THE HATCH!-- BUT WHERE?

SOLAR MOVES QUICKLY ALONG THE TUBE AND SEES...


AN INCREDIBLE SCENE! ... A GIANT TRANSPARENT DOME, WHOSE WALLS AMAZINGLY HOLD BACK THE CRUSHING PRESSURES OF THE WATER!
IT'S AN UNDERSEA CITY! AND THE "DIVING SAUCER" IS PARKED THERE, SO CAPTAIN SANDERS DIDN'T FOLLOW AN ILLUSION!

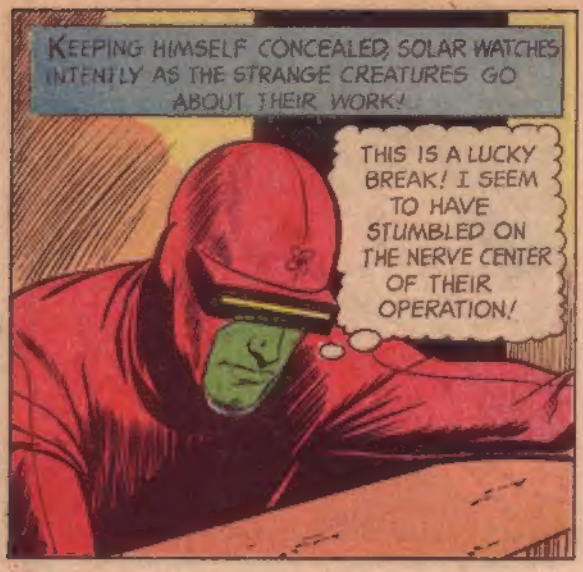

SEARCHING THE CURVED BASE OF THE DOME, SOLAR DISCOVERS...
A GIGANTIC INTAKE PIPE!-- ANOTHER RIDDLE!

AS HE NEARS THE PIPE, THE RUSHING WATER DRAWS HIM IN LIKE A BOBBING CORK!..


...AND SECONDS LATER, HE FINDS HIMSELF SUCKED INTO A FANTASTIC MACHINE! JUST A FEW FEET ABOVE HIS HEAD AN ENORMOUS BOLT OF ELECTRICITY CRACKLES AND FLARES!

QUICKLY CONVERTING HIS ENERGY INTO LIGHT, HE ESCAPES FROM THE HUGE TRANSPARENT GLOBE UNHARMED!
THE ELECTRIC ARC IS SPLITTING THE WATER INTO GASES IN WHOLESALE QUANTITIES! THIS MUST BE THE ANSWER TO THE VANISHING OCEAN MYSTERY! BUT WHO IS BEHIND IT?

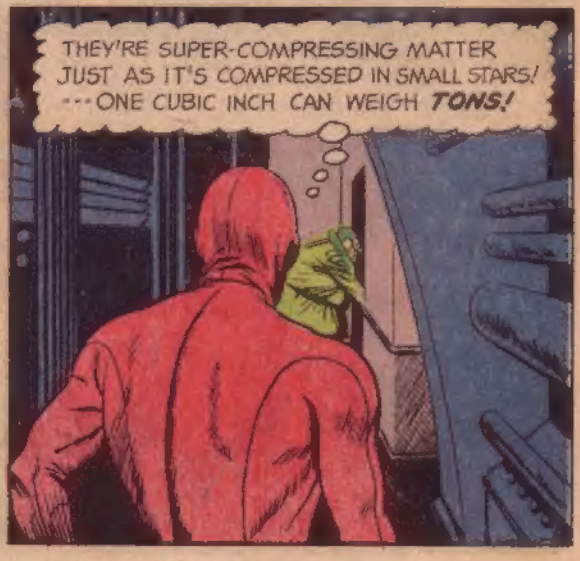
AS IF IN ANSWER TO HIS QUESTION, SOLAR SEES FOR THE FIRST TIME THE MOST STARTLING SURPRISE OF ALL--- THE CREATURES WITHIN THE DOME!
THEY'RE NOT FROM EARTH, BUT ALIEN BEINGS FROM ANOTHER WORLD!


KEEPING HIMSELF CONCEALED, SOLAR WATCHES INTENTLY AS THE STRANGE CREATURES GO ABOUT THEIR WORK!
THIS IS A LUCKY BREAK! I SEEM TO HAVE STUMBLED ON THE NERVE CENTER OF THEIR OPERATION!

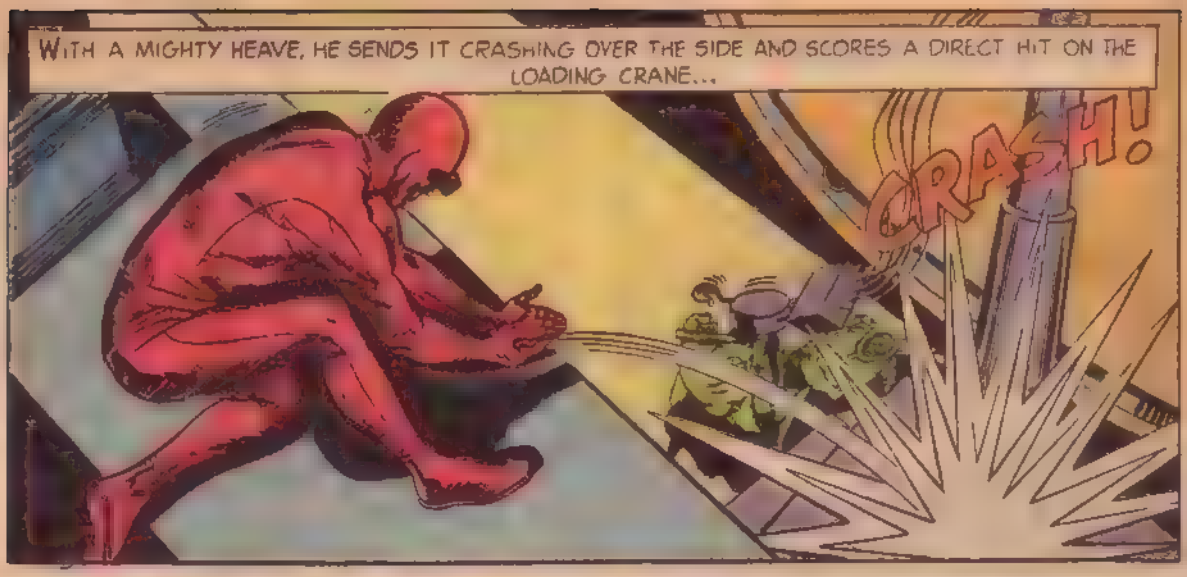
THEY SEEM TO BE COMPRESSING THE HYDROGEN AND OXYGEN THEY'VE COLLECTED FROM THE SEAWATER...

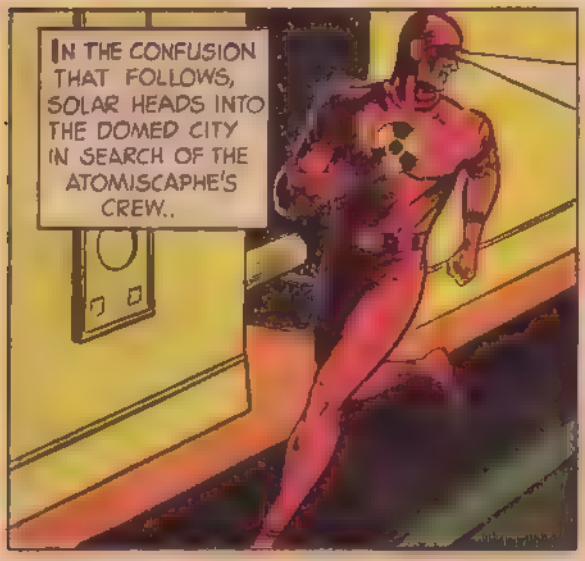
BUT UNDER PRESSURE, THE GASES WOULD TURN TO LIQUID! THEY MUST ADD A THIRD ELEMENT TO PREVENT THAT FROM HAPPENING!

--- BECAUSE THE PRODUCT OF THIS PROCESS IS A SOLID! THOSE TINY WAFERS REPRESENT HUGE QUANTITIES OF GAS--AND MILLIONS OF GALLONS OF WATER!


THEY'RE SUPER-COMPRESSING MATTER JUST AS IT'S COMPRESSED IN SMALL STARS! --- ONE CUBIC INCH CAN WEIGH TONS!

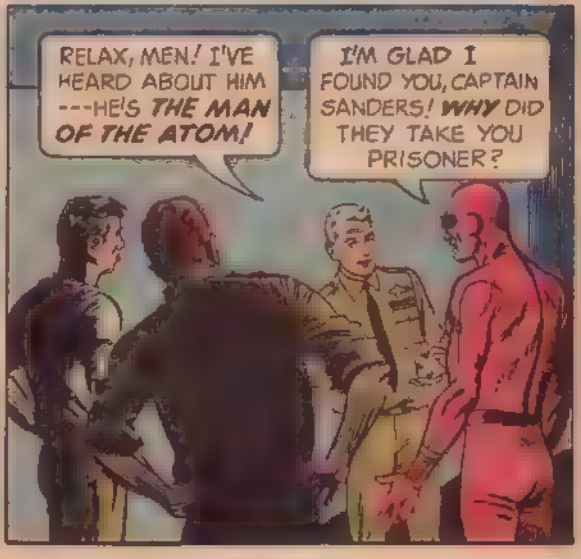
LATER, THE STRANGE VISITORS FROM OUTER SPACE MOVE TO A LOWER LEVEL AND BEGIN LOADING THEIR HUGE SPACESHIP..
THEY MUST BE GETTING READY TO LEAVE!
---AND THEY'RE GOING TO TAKE OUR WATER WITH THEM! THEY'VE GOT BE STOPPED!
SUDDENLY, ONE OF THE ALIENS SPOTS SOLAR
ZALZA? IK VOR!
PART OF THE CARGO OF WAFERS IS STILL ON THE UPPER LEVEL WHERE SOLAR HAS BEEN HIDING! HIS MUSCLES SWELLING WITH NUCLEAR POWER, HE PICKS UP ONE OF THEM!..


WITH A MIGHTY HEAVE, HE SENDS IT CRASHING OVER THE SIDE AND SCORES A DIRECT HIT ON THE LOADING CRANE...
CRASH!


IN THE CONFUSION THAT FOLLOWS, SOLAR HEADS INTO THE DOMED CITY IN SEARCH OF THE ATOMISCAPHE'S CREW..

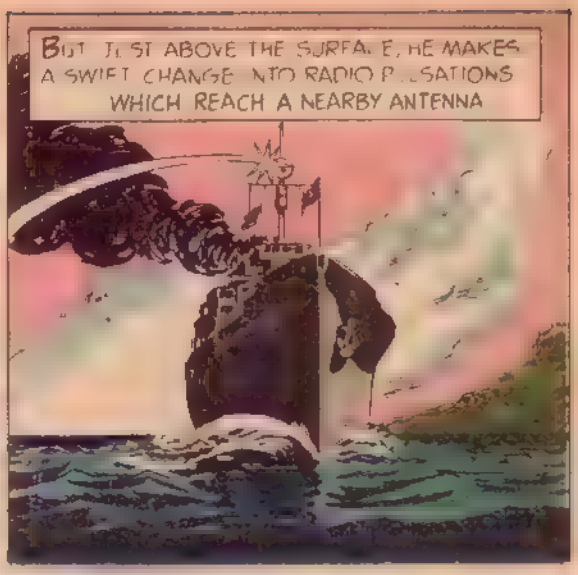
SPOTTING A BARRED WINDOW, HE CONVERTS HIS BODY INTO AN ALMOST INVISIBLE STREAK OF LIGHT AND ENTERS

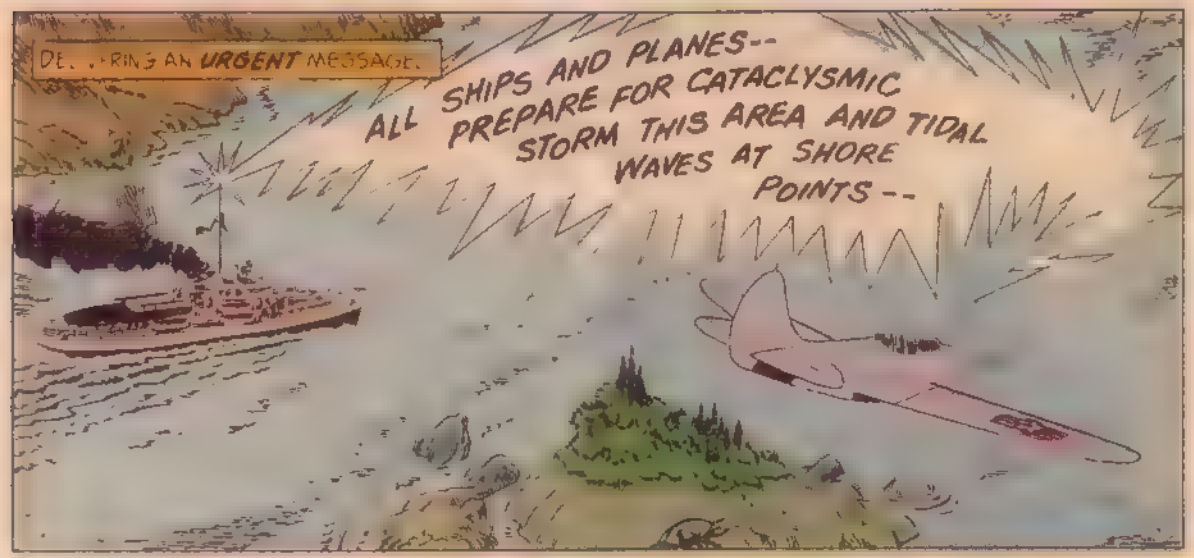
---YIPE! WH-WHO'S THAT CHARACTER? HE'S OOZING THROUGH THE BARS!

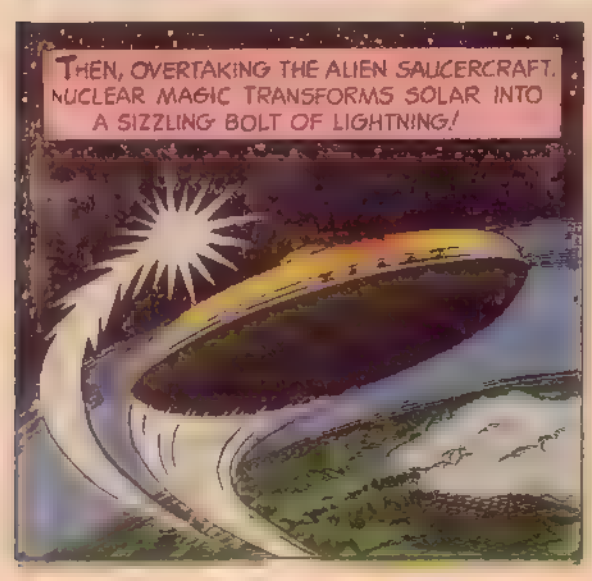

RELAX, MEN! I'VE HEARD ABOUT HIM ---HE'S THE MAN OF THE ATOM!
I'M GLAD I FOUND YOU, CAPTAIN SANDERS! WHY DID THEY TAKE YOU PRISONER?

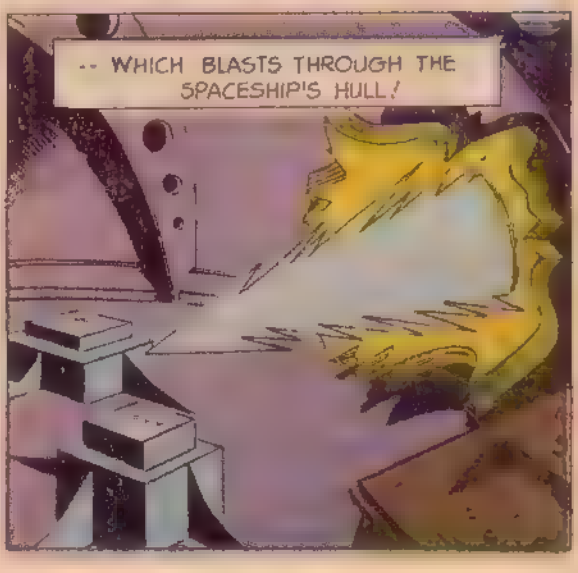
WE'RE SPECIMENS OF EARTH'S "LOW GRADE" LIFE! I THINK THEY PLAN TO TAKE US WITH THEM WHEN THEY LEAVE!
THEY'LL JUST HAVE TO CHANGE THEIR PLANS!
SUMMONING HIS NUCLEAR POWERS, SOLAR'S HANDS GLOW WITH RADIANT HEAT! THE BARS MELT LIKE BUTTER...
BEFORE THEY CAN MAKE THEIR ESCAPE, A SUDDEN WHINE FILLS THE DOME
THE ALIENS MUST HAVE DECIDED TO LEAVE!
SECONDS LATER THE STRANGE CRAFT IS LOADED AND ON ITS WAY
WHILE INSIDE THE DOMED CITY WATER BEGINS TO FILL THE PRISON CHAMBER...
THEY MUST HAVE OPENED THE FLOOD GATES BEFORE THEY LEFT!
LOOK! THE ATOM MAN IS DESERTING US!--WE'LL DROWN LIKE RATS!
---AND AT THAT MOMENT, SOLAR VANISHES IN A FLASH OF LIGHT!

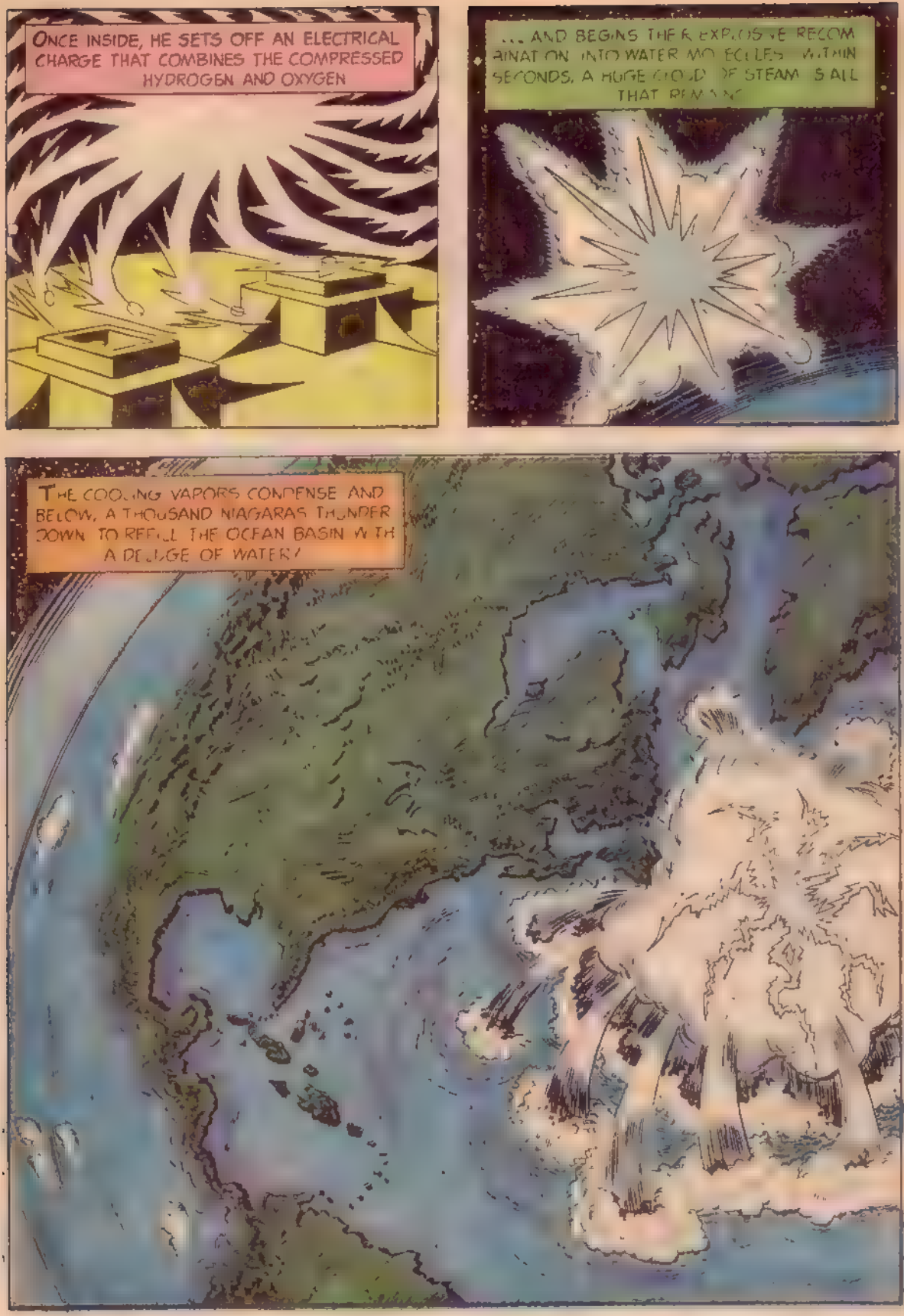
WITHOUT PAUSE THE HUMAN FLASH OF ENERGY PURSUES THE OUTER SPACE MARAUDERS


BUT JUST ABOVE THE SURFACE, HE MAKES A SWIFT CHANGE INTO RADIO PULSATIONS WHICH REACH A NEARBY ANTENNA


DELIVERING AN URGENT MESSAGE:
ALL SHIPS AND PLANES-- PREPARE FOR CATACLYSMIC STORM THIS AREA AND TIDAL WAVES AT SHORE POINTS --

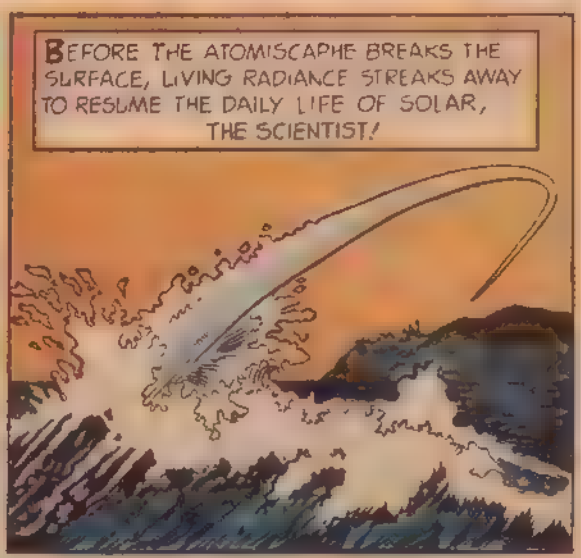

THEN, OVERTAKING THE ALIEN SAUCERCRAFT, NUCLEAR MAGIC TRANSFORMS SOLAR INTO A SIZZLING BOLT OF LIGHTNING!

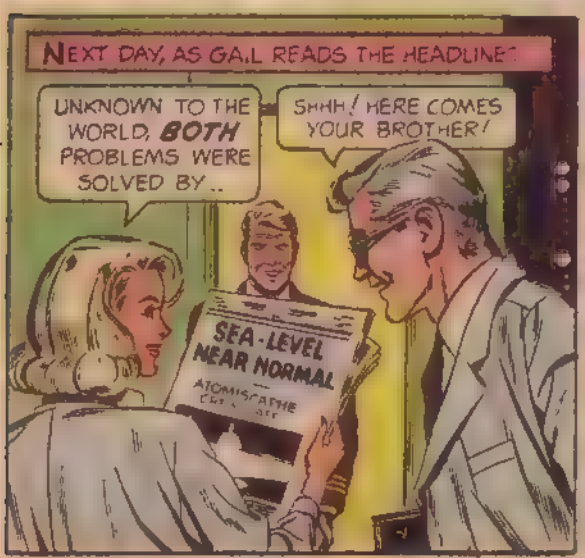

-- WHICH BLASTS THROUGH THE SPACESHIP'S HULL!

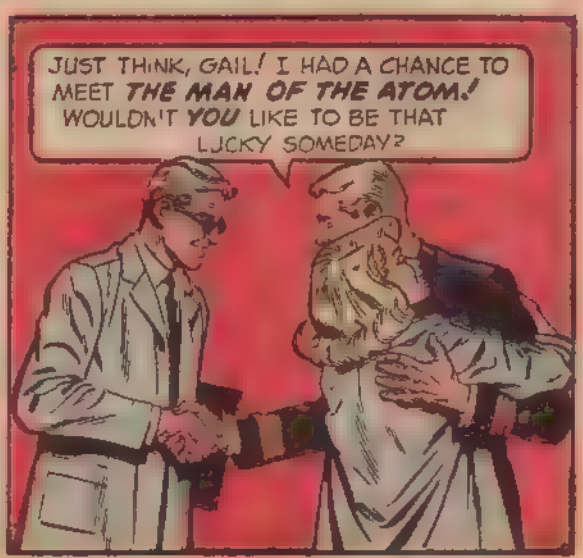

ONCE INSIDE, HE SETS OFF AN ELECTRICAL CHARGE THAT COMBINES THE COMPRESSED HYDROGEN AND OXYGEN
... AND BEGINS THE EXPLOSIVE RECOMBINATION INTO WATER MOLECULES. WITHIN SECONDS, A HUGE CLOUD OF STEAM IS ALL THAT REMAINS
THE COOLING VAPORS CONDENSE AND BELOW, A THOUSAND NIAGARAS THUNDER DOWN TO REFILL THE OCEAN BASIN WITH A DELUGE OF WATER!

AT ALMOST THE SAME INSTANT, A WHIRLPOOL TUNNEL MIRACULOUSLY APPEARS THROUGH THE WATER, PROVIDING AN ESCAPE FOR THE TRAPPED ATOMISCAPHE CREW!
HURRY! THE TUNNEL LEADS TO OUR SHIP!
NSS-44

THE RESCUE IS AN ATOMIC-POWERED FEAT OF SOLAR WHO HAS RETURNED FROM THE SKY ALMOST AS SOON AS HE LEFT!


BEFORE THE ATOMISCAPHE BREAKS THE SURFACE, LIVING RADIANCE STREAKS AWAY TO RESUME THE DAILY LIFE OF SOLAR, THE SCIENTIST!


NEXT DAY, AS GAIL READS THE HEADLINE:
UNKNOWN TO THE WORLD, BOTH PROBLEMS WERE SOLVED BY..
SHHH! HERE COMES YOUR BROTHER!
SEA-LEVEL NEAR NORMAL
ATOMISCAPHE


JUST THINK, GAIL! I HAD A CHANCE TO MEET THE MAN OF THE ATOM! WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO BE THAT LUCKY SOMEDAY?

Professor Harbinger

SATELLITE SWEEPER

SINCE THE SPACE AGE BEGAN OVER SIX YEARS AGO, BOTH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE LAUNCHED OVER 150 SATELLITES INTO ORBIT! MANY OF THEM HAVE FALLEN AND BURNED UP IN THE ATMOSPHERE!

SPUTNIK I USSR OCT 4 1957

EXPLORER - I USA JAN 31 1958

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BUT AS OF TODAY, THERE ARE 81 SMALL "ARTIFICIAL MOONS" STILL CIRCLING THE EARTH, AT VARIOUS ALTITUDES AND IN DIFFERENT ORBITS!

SOME ARE FAMOUS

ECHO-I
"BALLOON SATELLITE"
LAUNCHED
AUG 12 1960
TOTAL ORBITS TO DATE — 15,000
TOTAL DISTANCE TRAVELED
475,000,000 MILES

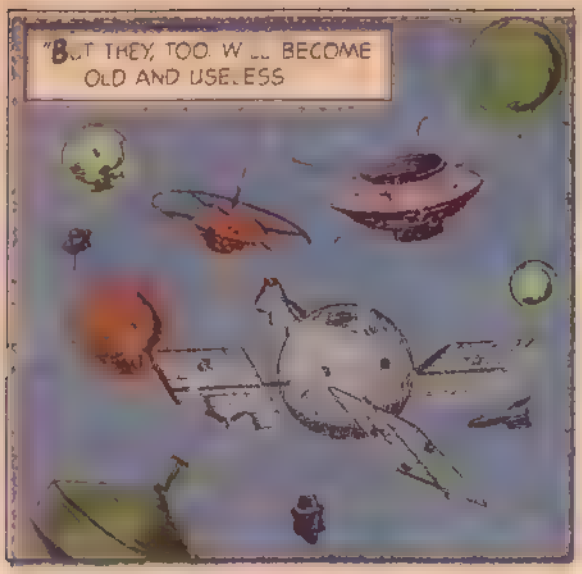
"SOME ARE OLD AND USELESS SPACE JUNK...

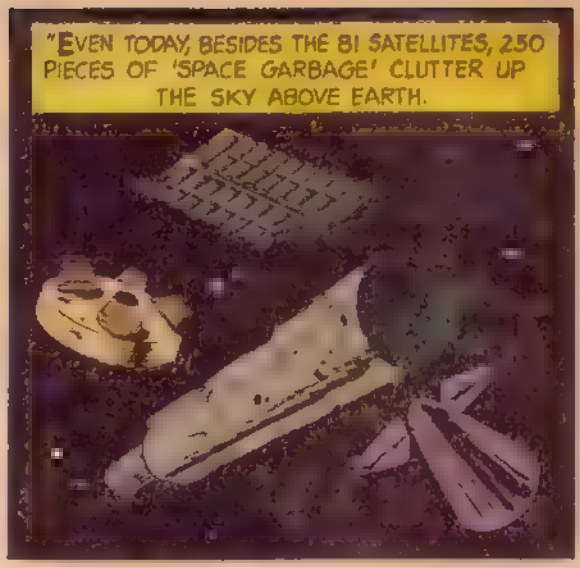
VANGUARD-I - 1958

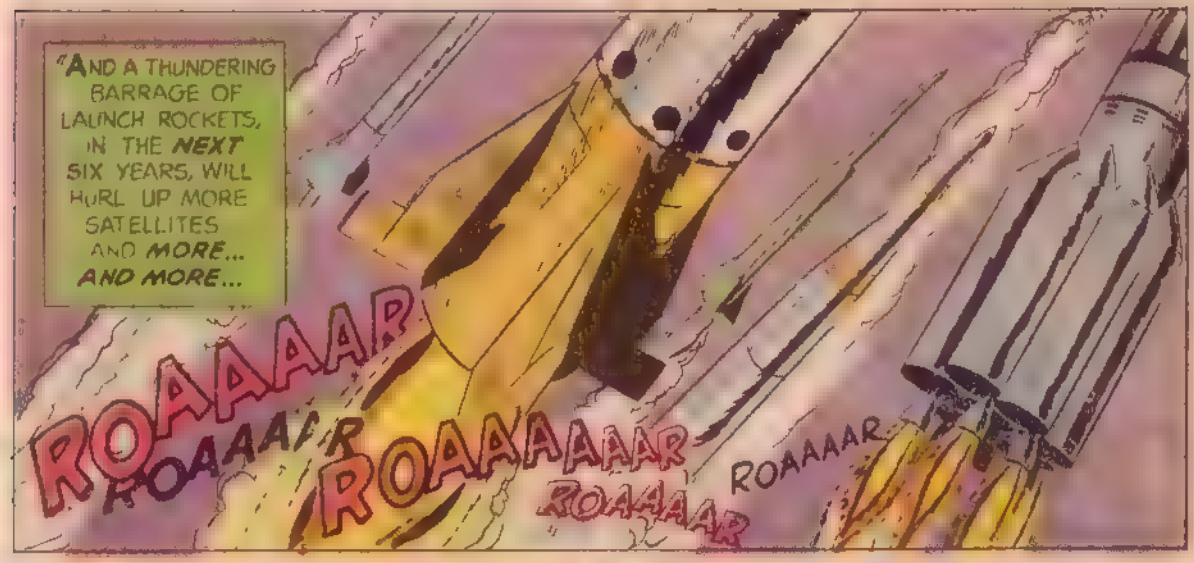
EXPLORER V 1959

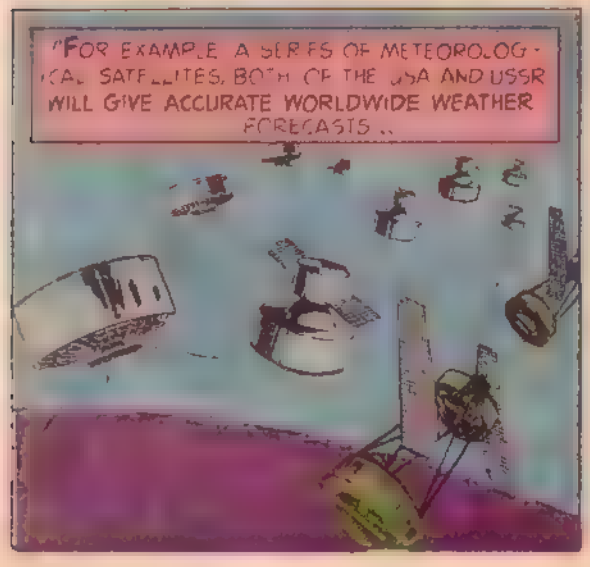
TRANSIT-I B - 1960

"SOME ARE NEW AND BENEFICIAL...


"BUT THEY, TOO, W... BECOME OLD AND USELESS

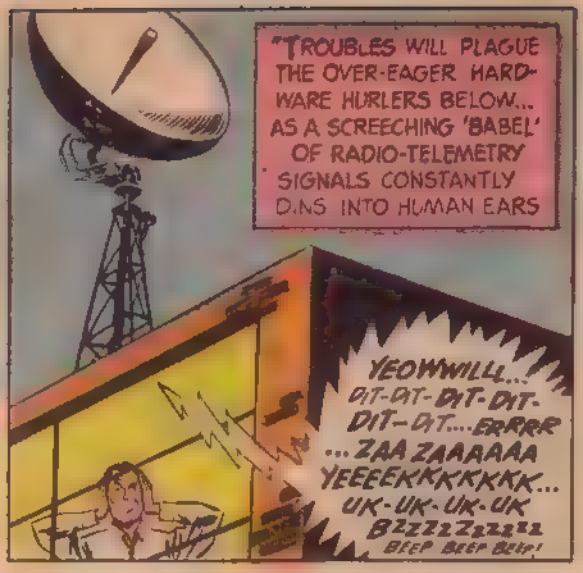

"EVEN TODAY, BESIDES THE 81 SATELLITES, 250 PIECES OF 'SPACE GARBAGE' CLUTTER UP THE SKY ABOVE EARTH.

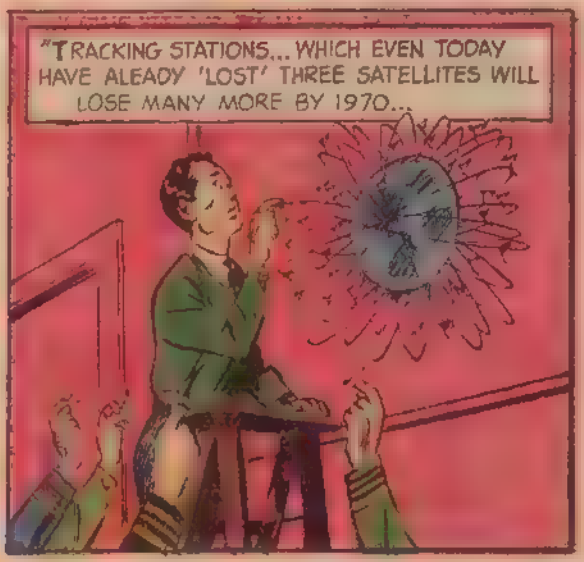

"AND A THUNDERING BARRAGE OF LAUNCH ROCKETS, IN THE NEXT SIX YEARS, WILL HURL UP MORE SATELLITES AND MORE... AND MORE...
ROAAAAAR
ROAAAAAR
ROAAAAAAAR
ROAAAAAR
ROAAAAAR

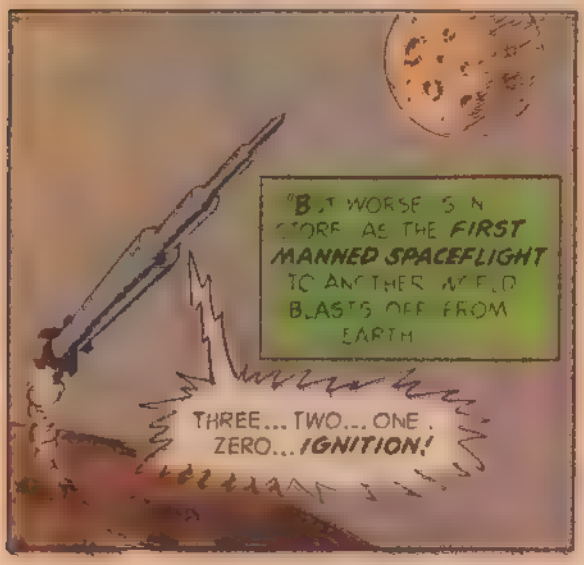

"FOR EXAMPLE, A SERIES OF METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITES, BOTH OF THE USA AND USSR WILL GIVE ACCURATE WORLDWIDE WEATHER FORECASTS...

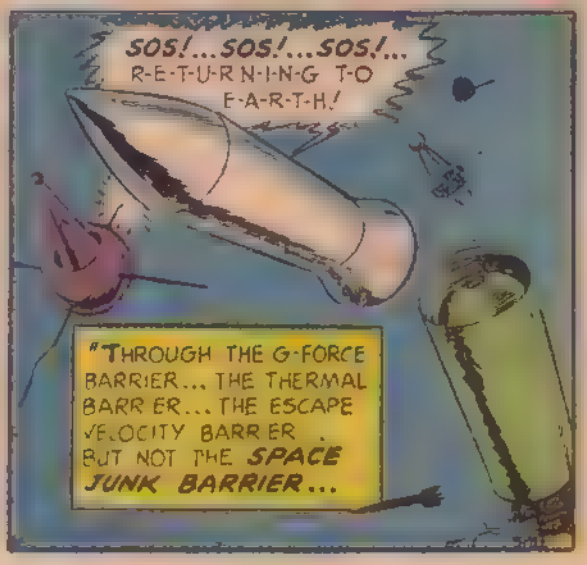
"ALSO AN INTERNATIONAL SPACE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK OF SOME 50 LOW ORBITING RADIO BOUNCE SATELLITES, PLUS SEVERAL HIGH-FLYING VEHICLES...

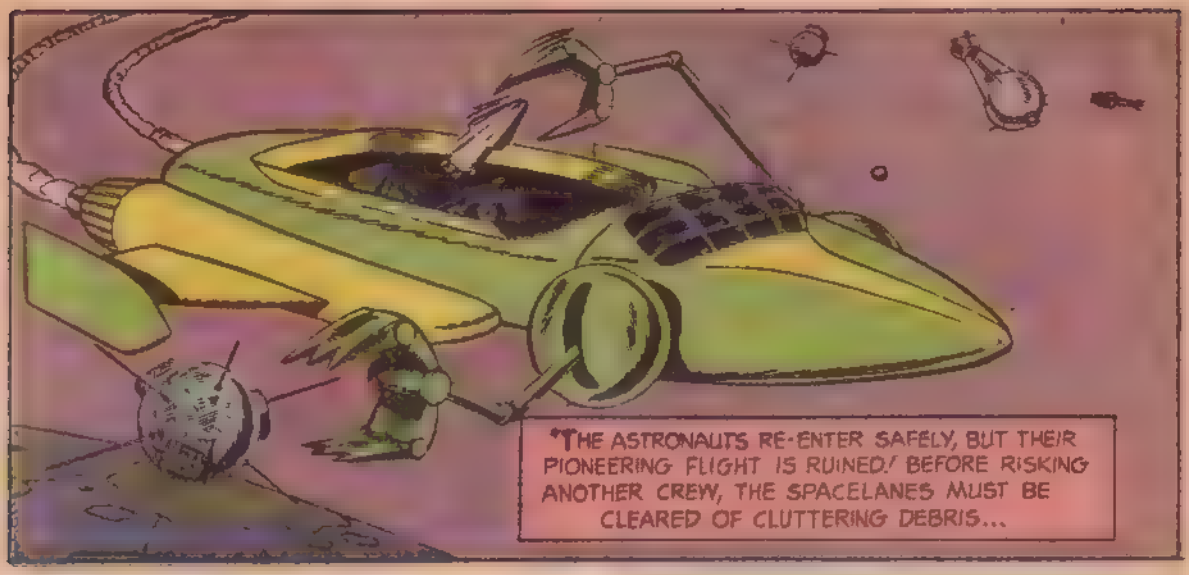
"AMERICAN BEACONS, DISCOVERERS, EXPLORERS... RUSSIAN SPUTNIKS, COSMONIKS, VOSTOKS... PERHAPS 300 MORE SATELLITES WILL JAM UP SPACE IN THIS DECADE...

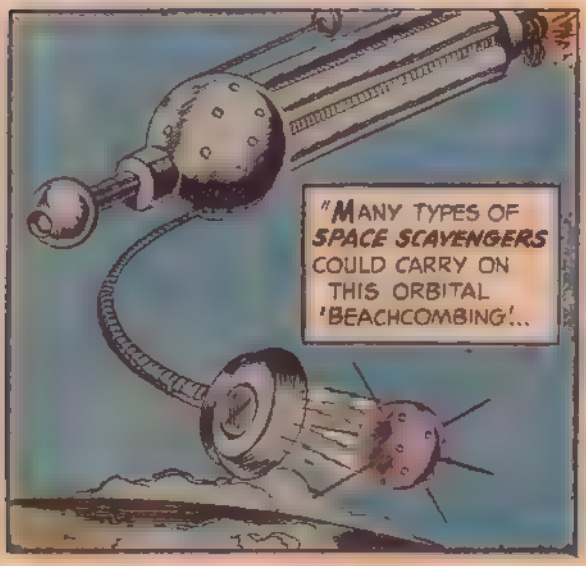

"TROUBLES WILL PLAGUE THE OVER-EAGER HARD-WARE HURLERS BELOW... AS A SCREECHING 'BABEL' OF RADIO-TELEMETRY SIGNALS CONSTANTLY DINS INTO HUMAN EARS
YEOWWILL... DIT-DIT-DIT-DIT-DIT-DIT....ERRRR ...ZAA ZAAAAAA YEEEEKKKKKKK... UK-UK-UK-UK BZZZZZZZZZZ BEEP BEEP BEEP!

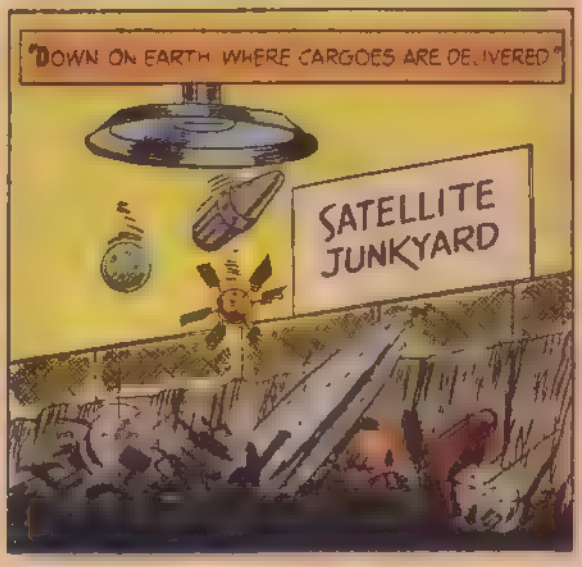

"TRACKING STATIONS... WHICH EVEN TODAY HAVE ALEADY 'LOST' THREE SATELLITES WILL LOSE MANY MORE BY 1970...

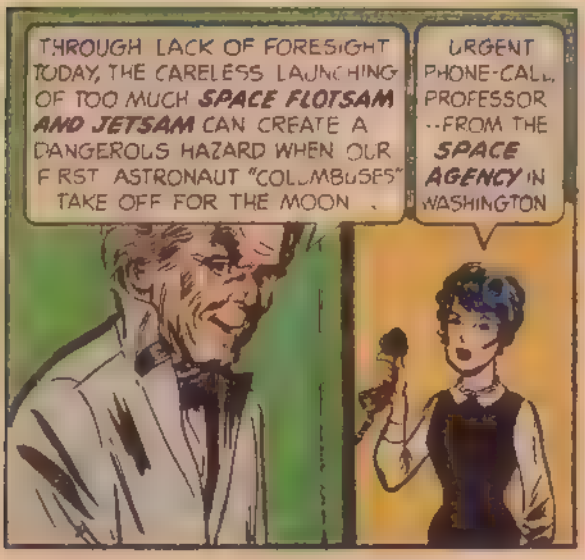

"BUT WORSE IS N STORE AS THE FIRST MANNED SPACEFLIGHT TO ANOTHER WORLD BLASTS OFF FROM EARTH
THREE... TWO... ONE . ZERO... IGNITION!

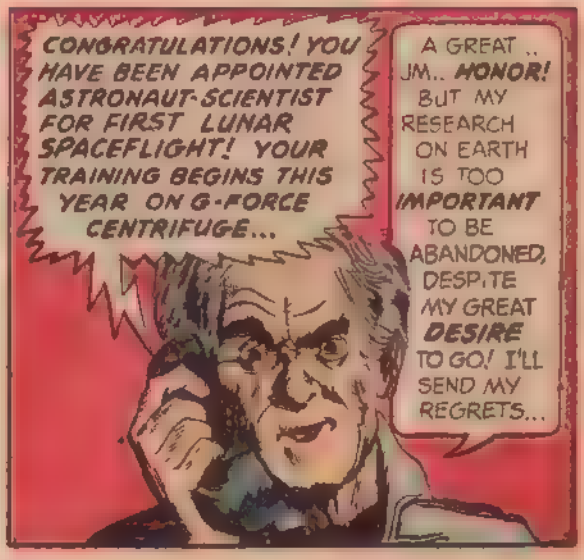

SOS!...SOS!...SOS!... R-E-T-U-R-N-I-N-G T-O E-A-R-T-H!
"THROUGH THE G-FORCE BARRIER... THE THERMAL BARRIER... THE ESCAPE VELOCITY BARRIER . BUT NOT THE SPACE JUNK BARRIER...


"THE ASTRONAUTS RE-ENTER SAFELY, BUT THEIR PIONEERING FLIGHT IS RUINED! BEFORE RISKING ANOTHER CREW, THE SPACELANES MUST BE CLEARED OF CLUTTERING DEBRIS...


"MANY TYPES OF SPACE SCAVENGERS COULD CARRY ON THIS ORBITAL 'BEACHCOMBING'...


"DOWN ON EARTH WHERE CARGOES ARE DELIVERED"
SATELLITE JUNKYARD


THROUGH LACK OF FORESIGHT TODAY, THE CARELESS LAUNCHING OF TOO MUCH SPACE FLOTSAM AND JETSAM CAN CREATE A DANGEROUS HAZARD WHEN OUR FIRST ASTRONAUT "COLUMBUSES" TAKE OFF FOR THE MOON.
URGENT PHONE-CALL, PROFESSOR --FROM THE SPACE AGENCY IN WASHINGTON


CONGRATULATIONS! YOU HAVE BEEN APPOINTED ASTRONAUT-SCIENTIST FOR FIRST LUNAR SPACEFLIGHT! YOUR TRAINING BEGINS THIS YEAR ON G-FORCE CENTRIFUGE...
A GREAT .. UM.. HONOR! BUT MY RESEARCH ON EARTH IS TOO IMPORTANT TO BE ABANDONED, DESPITE MY GREAT DESIRE TO GO! I'LL SEND MY REGRETS...

SOLAR'S SCIENCE FORUM

© 1963, BY WESTERN PUBL SHING COMPANY INC.

In your new super-hero, DOCTOR SOLAR, you have potentially one of the greatest characters in comic book history. In the first four issues you followed a logical and very original pattern, which led to the best issue to date, the fifth. The introduction of his alter ego and costume in a way that became a logical part of the plot development was a mile-stone in comic history!

So far the plots have been mature, well thought out and fabulously developed. Your artist is very talented and his portrayal of atomic energy reactions is superb. Your covers are magnificent.

Please do not ruin the book by: 1. Putting Solar into any kind of group. 2. Introducing a child or female counterpart of Solar. To do these things would be a crime.

You could, however: 1. Introduce another villain besides your excellently-handled Nuro. (Preferably one with some unique powers to counteract Solar's.) 2. Have Gail accidently betray Solar's secret to Nuro and make a serialized story of the results.

You have a wonderful hero in DOCTOR SOLAR. Please do not ruin him, but rather continue at the high level at which you have been to date.

ANDREW FRANKNOI
1950 ANDREWS AVE.
BRONX, NEW YORK

In Issue #5, second story, panel two, Nuro says: "He must be the one who burned my spy-in-the-sky satellite." I have every issue so far, and the only satellite shown is a weather control satellite in Issue #3. Please explain.

DAVID ANDREW INNES
7445 PLYMOUTH ROAD
ANN ARBOR, MICH.

That was one we never told you about! Would you like to hear more about it?

DOCTOR SOLAR is great. The costume he wears is also great. I've just finished reading issue #5 and I feel someone should put DOCTOR SOLAR on TV.

Professor Harbinger is also great. I missed the first issue, so would you tell me how solar got his powers? I don't really understand his origin.

CLIFTON PAYNE JR.
611 JACKSONVILLE ST.
WEAVER, ALA.

Solar became The Man Of The Atom while trying to save a fellow scientist exposed to deadly radiation streaming from a sabotaged nuclear reactor. Both men were fatally exposed, but Solar's life was miraculously spared. Since that time his body has been radioactive, and he has become a living isotope.

Now that DOCTOR SOLAR has donned a stunning uniform and revealed his alter ego to the world, he is the best in the GOLD KEY lineup.

The story "Crystallized Killers" is an excellent example of a uniformless Solar story. Firm plotting and artwork, which looks as if it were tailored to the red doctor, held him second only to MAGNUS in my estimation.

But as the cover implies, the second story shows D.S. in dynamic garb threatening to nose out the leader. And he succeeds! The idea of Solar being a dedicated scientist and a unique crimefighter helped me enjoy the yarn all the more. Of course, the qualities of the first story were here in abundance to make "The New Man Of The Atom" the best DOCTOR SOLAR story I've ever read!

EDWARD SIMPSON III
261 WILDBRIAR ROAD
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

I am sure that fans everywhere highly approve of the additions and changes that were made in the fifth issue of DOCTOR SOLAR. With white hair, Solar is a more colorful and outstanding figure. The same is obviously true of the costumed Man Of The Atom. Finally, the addition of a letter department will make a hero out of GOLD KEY COMICS! I wouldn't be surprised if DOCTOR SOLAR becomes a bi-monthly with issue #8.

I agree with Dr. Clarkson that the sign for radioactivity is a most appropriate emblem for Solar's costume.

It seems like outer space would be an appropriate setting for a man of Solar's powers, but please don't give us space aliens. Continue to keep the menaces as close to earth as possible. Nothing destroys a super-hero faster than fantastic villains.

JERRY BAILS
22529 KARAM CT.
WARREN, MICHIGAN

We've gone and done it! Solar meets his first space aliens in this issue. As Jerry pointed out, it is an appropriate setting for a man of Solar's powers. We'd be interested in hearing from other fans on this subject. How about a debate in the pages of your Fanzine, The Comic Reader, Jerry?

I have just recently come to this country, but in time to read the first of DOCTOR SOLAR. I had an easy time understanding the American English, and the story, artwork and plot were wonderful. I think it is the best book I have ever read.

The story, "New Man Of The Atom" (issue #5) was, well, no words can describe it but simply great.

My new mother in the United States (I am part of the Foreign Exchange Program in Denmark) agrees wholeheartedly.

Too bad, though, that we don't have a real Solar to tell off old Khrushchev!

BIRGIT KIRSCH
47 THOMAS STREET
WEST HAVEN, CONN.

Welcome to America and a new world of fun and excitement in GOLD KEY COMICS!

I am just a new fan to DOCTOR SOLAR. I just received issue #5. I think Solar is just great. In the Science Forum some people have good suggestions and some people don't. Here are the ones I think are good: 1. I think this comic should be published more often. 2. I think Gail is just beautiful. 3. I think we should have monsters in here and also jealous women. 4. I don't like the "togetherness deal" because I think all super heroes should just be by themselves.

I would like to ask a question. Do you think you could have a Fan Club? People could write in their names and have people write to them. Even though I'm just 12, I think that is a great idea.

BONNIE SER
1900 ELMDALE AVE
JUNCTION CITY, KANSAS

My first impression of DOCTOR SOLAR was that here at last was a believable hero. Believable meaning that he is not from another planet, he doesn't fight monsters and all his powers are scientifically possible. I think it was the best comic published until you made him a super-duper. What I mean is, giving him a costume took away the scientist and gave us Solar as an alter ego with The Man Of The Atom. This now makes him just like all the others. Please give us back DOCTOR SOLAR, not The Man Of The Atom!

WILLIAM BARTLE
3115 N. BAMBREY ST.
PHILADELPHIA, PENNA.

In the story, THE CRYSTALLIZED KILLERS, how in the world did those killers and Solar get in that crystal?

JOHN SHEPHERD
POCAHONTAS, ARK.

They didn't. The crystal grew around them and they were trapped between the newly-formed planes and facets.

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

Let us hear from you! Address your letters to:

DOCTOR SOLAR
K. K. Publications, Inc.
Poughkeepsie, New York

THE GUIDED COMET

FROM THE FAR REACHES OF OUTER SPACE, A HUGE COMET SUDDENLY TURNS IN ITS PATH AND SEEMS TO ZERO-IN ON A ***COLLISION COURSE*** WITH THE EARTH! ASTRONOMERS THE WORLD OVER WATCH THE HEART-STOPPING PHENOMENON IN FEAR AND DISBELIEF! FEW OF THEM HAVE ANY DOUBTS THAT THEY ARE WATCHING THE FIRST STAGE OF EARTH'S FINAL DESTRUCTION, BUT NONE OF THEM KNOWS WHO OR WHAT HAS BROUGHT ABOUT THIS ***THREAT FROM BEYOND!***

AS THEY WATCH, THE COMET SUDDENLY ALTERS ITS COURSE ONCE AGAIN! AT THE EDGE OF SPACE IT BEGINS TO ORBIT THE EARTH LIKE A SECOND MOON!

BUT THE THREAT OF DESTRUCTION IS STILL ***VERY*** REAL!

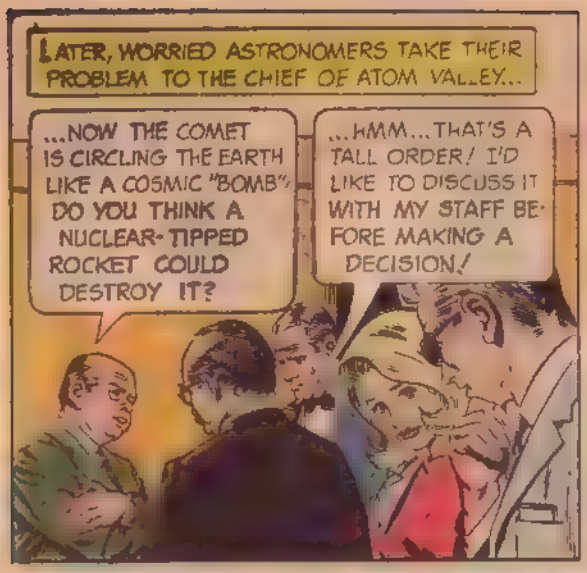
THAT COMET IS LIKE A GUIDED MISSILE!-- CAN IT ***POSSIBLY*** BE A THREAT FROM INTELLIGENT CREATURES IN OUTER SPACE?

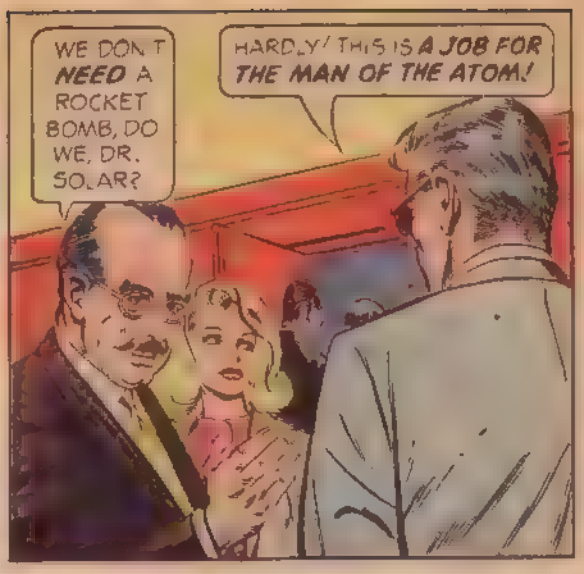
UNKNOWN TO THE WORLD, THE THREAT COMES NOT FROM OUTER SPACE, BUT FROM ***EARTH*** ITSELF! THE COMET IS IN THE COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE EVIL ***NURO!***

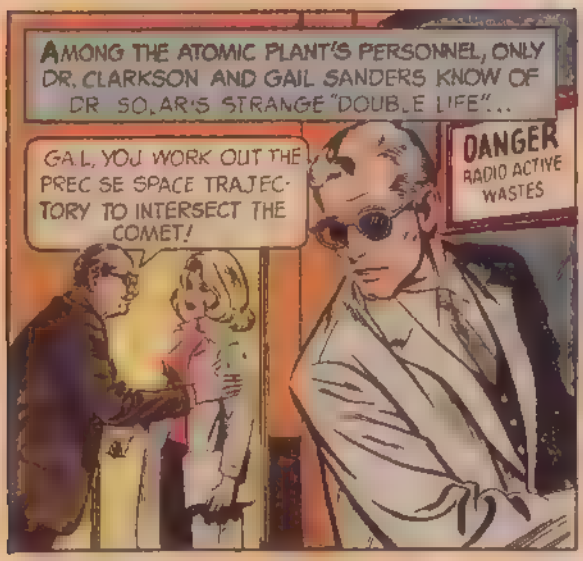
EVERYTHING IS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN! THE COMET ATTAINED EARTH ORBIT AT 0550 HOURS!

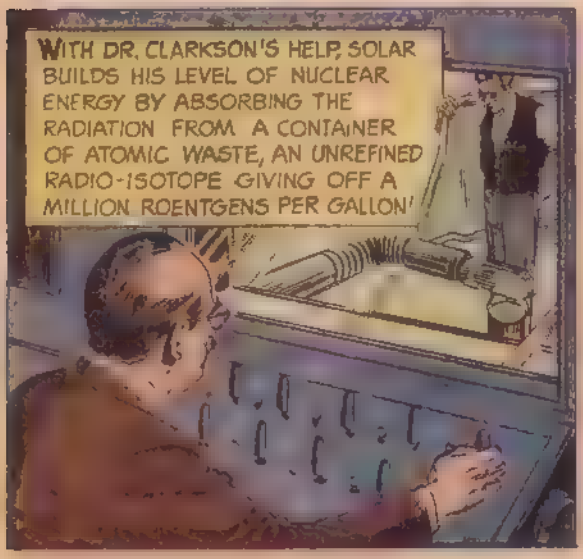
THE IRON CONTENT IN THE COMET'S HEAD IS GREATER THAN WE EXPECTED! WE WON'T NEED ALL THE POWER BUILT INTO THE ***COSMO-MAGNET!***

PERFECT!-- NOW WE WILL PROCEED WITH THE NEXT STEP IN OUR PLAN!


LATER, WORRIED ASTRONOMERS TAKE THEIR PROBLEM TO THE CHIEF OF ATOM VALLEY...
...NOW THE COMET IS CIRCLING THE EARTH LIKE A COSMIC "BOMB"! DO YOU THINK A NUCLEAR-TIPPED ROCKET COULD DESTROY IT?
...HMM...THAT'S A TALL ORDER! I'D LIKE TO DISCUSS IT WITH MY STAFF BEFORE MAKING A DECISION!

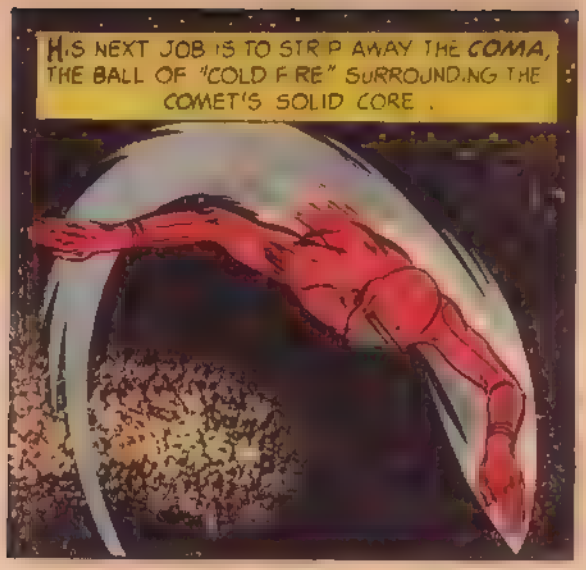

WE DON'T NEED A ROCKET BOMB, DO WE, DR. SOLAR?
HARDLY! THIS IS A JOB FOR THE MAN OF THE ATOM!

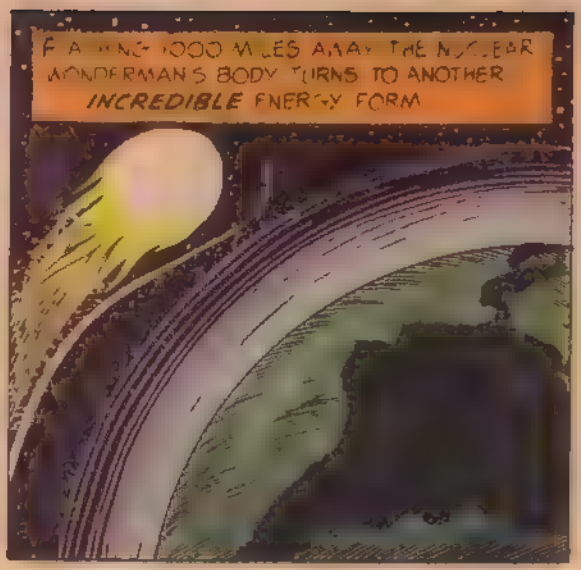

AMONG THE ATOMIC PLANT'S PERSONNEL, ONLY DR. CLARKSON AND GAIL SANDERS KNOW OF DR SOLAR'S STRANGE "DOUBLE LIFE"...
GAIL, YOU WORK OUT THE PRECISE SPACE TRAJECTORY TO INTERSECT THE COMET!
DANGER
RADIO ACTIVE WASTES

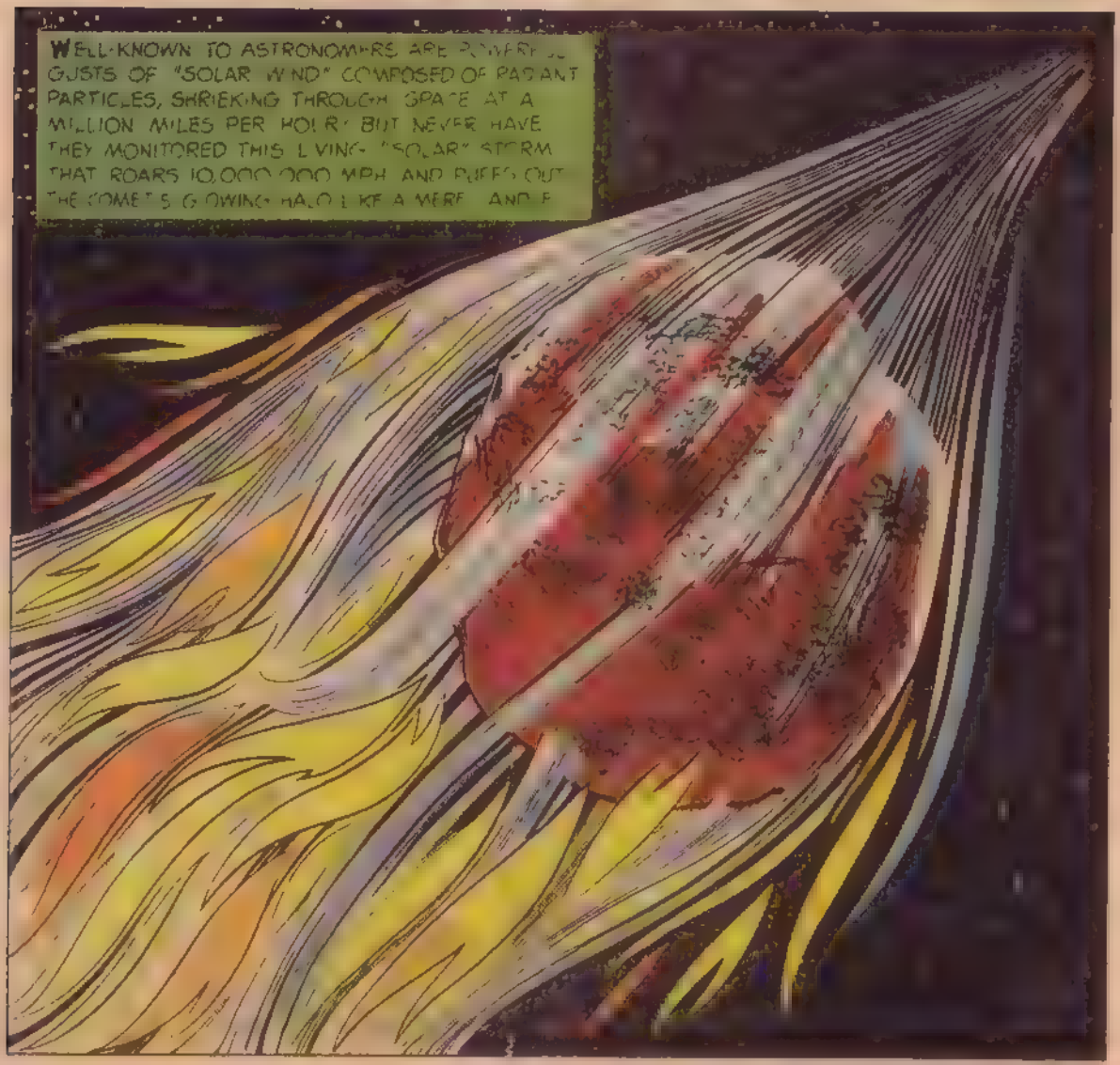

WITH DR. CLARKSON'S HELP, SOLAR BUILDS HIS LEVEL OF NUCLEAR ENERGY BY ABSORBING THE RADIATION FROM A CONTAINER OF ATOMIC WASTE, AN UNREFINED RADIO-ISOTOPE GIVING OFF A MILLION ROENTGENS PER GALLON!

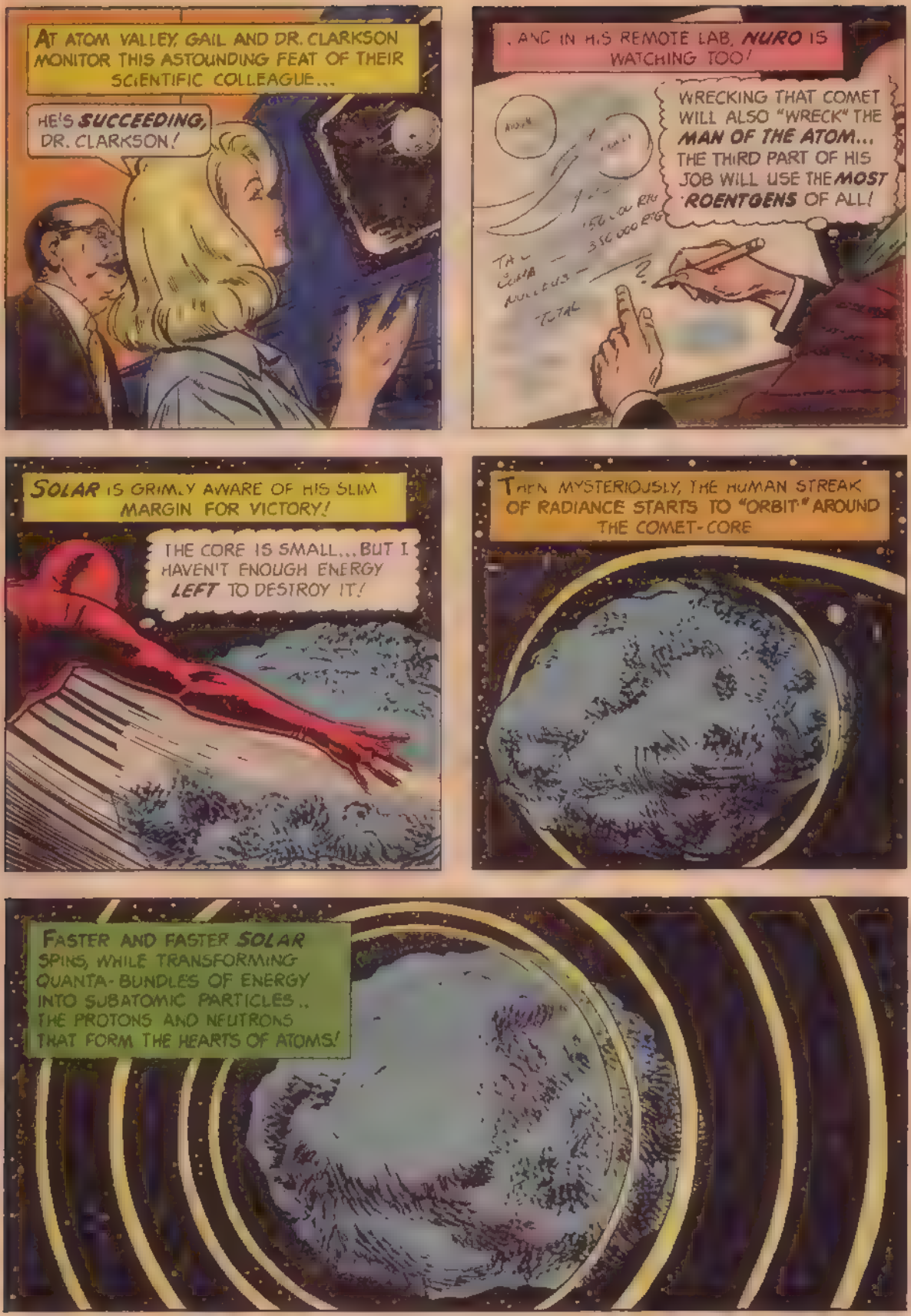
TO A NORMAL HUMAN, THIS RADIATION CAN MEAN INSTANT DEATH! BUT TO SOLAR, THE MAN OF THE ATOM, IT IS RADIANT NEW LIFE!

LATER FOLLOWING COMPUTER CALCULATION, A STRANGE COUNTDOWN BEGINS AS SOLAR, IN RADIANT-FORM, PREPARES FOR HIS MISSILE-LIKE FLIGHT!
COURSE ZERO ZERO-FIVE.. 38° CURVE AT 50 MILES ALTITUDE ACCELERATION TO 9 G-S
WITH A MIGHTY ROAR, SOLAR BLASTS SKYWARD, LAUNCHING HIMSELF TOWARD SPACE!
ROO-A-A-A-R-R
GUIDED BY GALS SPACEFLIGHT DATA THE FANTASTIC FLASH OF INTELLIGENT ENERGY ROCKETS ACCURATELY INTO THE COMET'S ORBIT
BUT AS HE APPROACHES THE COMET, HE GETS A STAGGERING SHOCK FROM THE TAIL OF SUPER CHARGED IONS
RECOVERING QUICKLY, SOLAR REGROUPS HIS ENERGY INTO A RADIANT KNIFE-EDGE OF SLASHING POWER WHICH CUTS THROUGH THE LONG TAIL, SEPARATING IT FROM THE COMET'S HEAD!
S-S-S-S

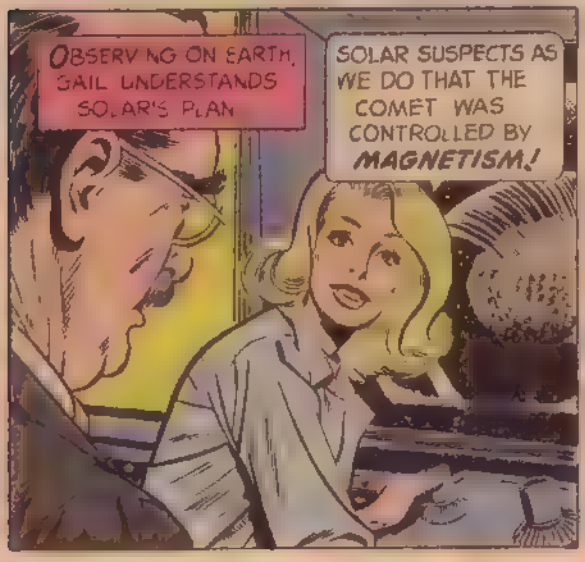

HIS NEXT JOB IS TO STRIP AWAY THE COMA, THE BALL OF "COLD FIRE" SURROUNDING THE COMET'S SOLID CORE.

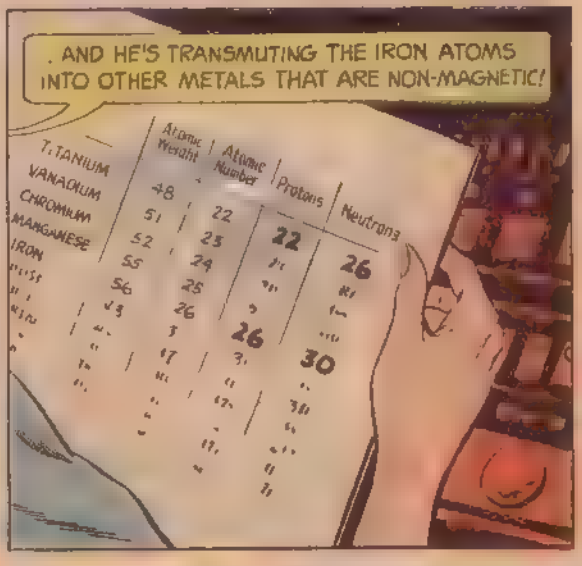

FLASHING 1000 MILES AWAY THE NUCLEAR WONDERMAN'S BODY TURNS TO ANOTHER INCREDIBLE ENERGY FORM

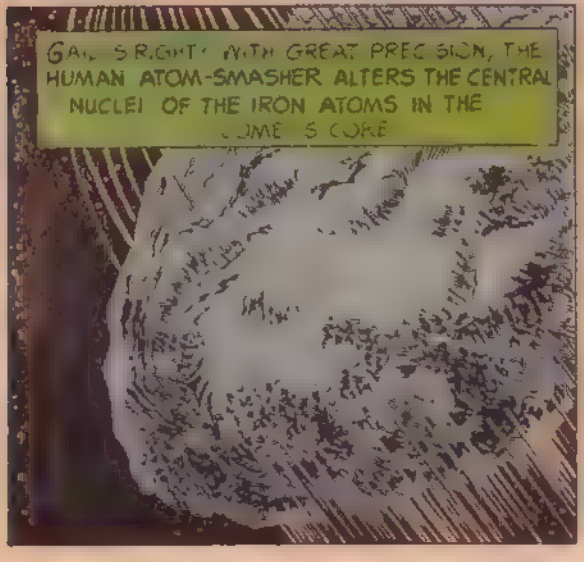

WELL-KNOWN TO ASTRONOMERS ARE POWERFUL GUSTS OF "SOLAR WIND" COMPOSED OF RADIANT PARTICLES, SHRIEKING THROUGH SPACE AT A MILLION MILES PER HOUR! BUT NEVER HAVE THEY MONITORED THIS LIVING "SOLAR" STORM THAT ROARS 10,000,000 MPH AND PUFFS OUT THE COMET'S GLOWING HALO LIKE A MERE AND F


AT ATOM VALLEY, GAIL AND DR. CLARKSON MONITOR THIS ASTOUNDING FEAT OF THEIR SCIENTIFIC COLLEAGUE...
HE'S SUCCEEDING, DR. CLARKSON!
...AND IN HIS REMOTE LAB, NURO IS WATCHING TOO!
WRECKING THAT COMET WILL ALSO "WRECK" THE MAN OF THE ATOM... THE THIRD PART OF HIS JOB WILL USE THE MOST ROENTGENS OF ALL!
SOLAR IS GRIMLY AWARE OF HIS SLIM MARGIN FOR VICTORY!
THE CORE IS SMALL... BUT I HAVEN'T ENOUGH ENERGY LEFT TO DESTROY IT!
THEN MYSTERIOUSLY, THE HUMAN STREAK OF RADIANCE STARTS TO "ORBIT" AROUND THE COMET-CORE
FASTER AND FASTER SOLAR SPINS, WHILE TRANSFORMING QUANTA-BUNDLES OF ENERGY INTO SUBATOMIC PARTICLES.. THE PROTONS AND NEUTRONS THAT FORM THE HEARTS OF ATOMS!

FINALLY THE POWER BUILDS TO 100 BILLION ELECTRON VOLTS, GREATER THAN ANY ATOM-SMASHING MACHINE ON EARTH, AND THE HUMAN CYCLOTRON SMASHES INTO THE COMET'S CORE!


OBSERVING ON EARTH, GAIL UNDERSTANDS SOLAR'S PLAN
SOLAR SUSPECTS AS WE DO THAT THE COMET WAS CONTROLLED BY MAGNETISM!

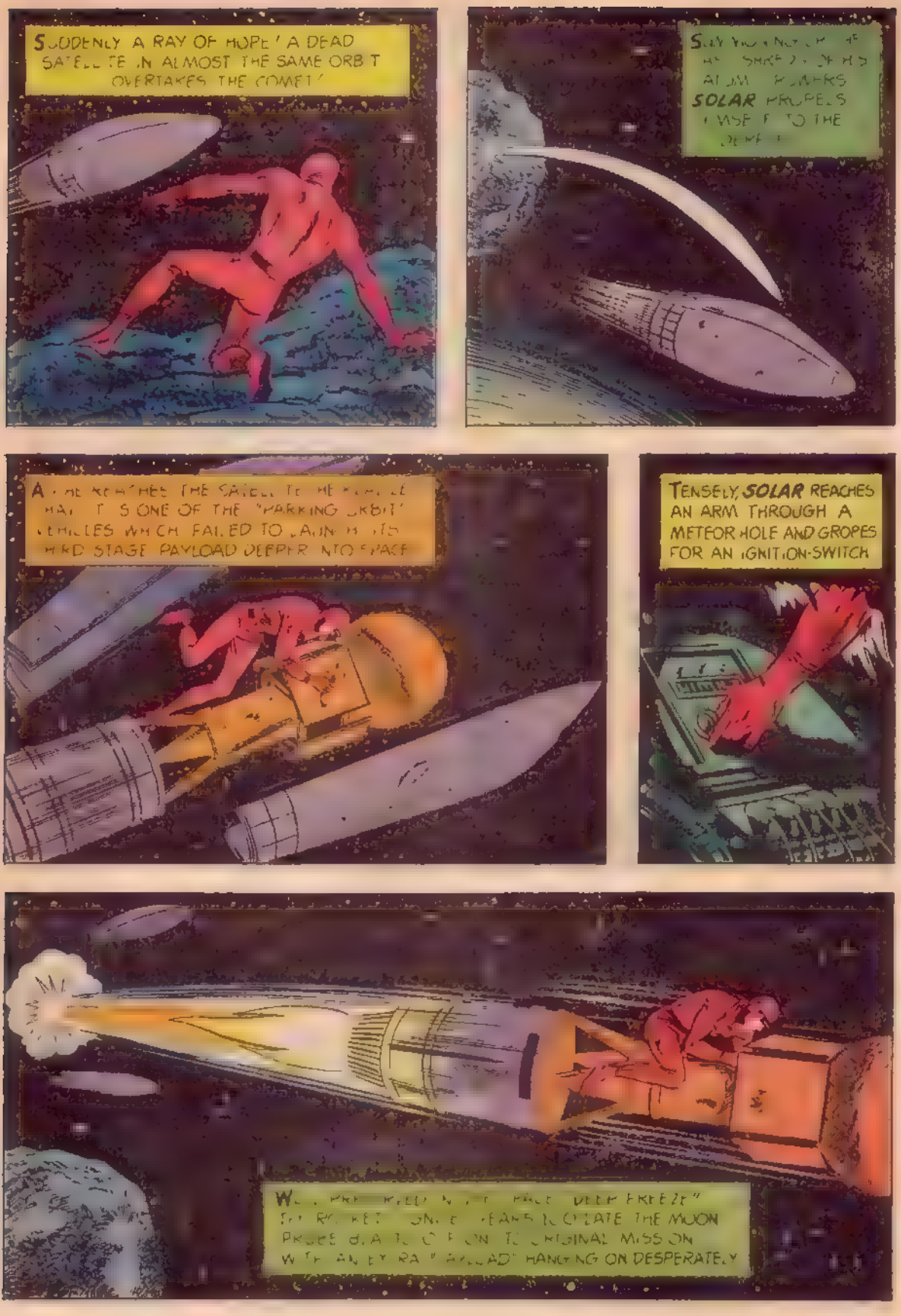

. AND HE'S TRANSMUTING THE IRON ATOMS INTO OTHER METALS THAT ARE NON-MAGNETIC!
TITANIUM
VANADIUM
CHROMIUM
MANGANESE
IRON
Atomic Weight
Atomic Number
Protons
Neutrons
48
51
52
55
56
22
23
24
25
26
22
26
26
30

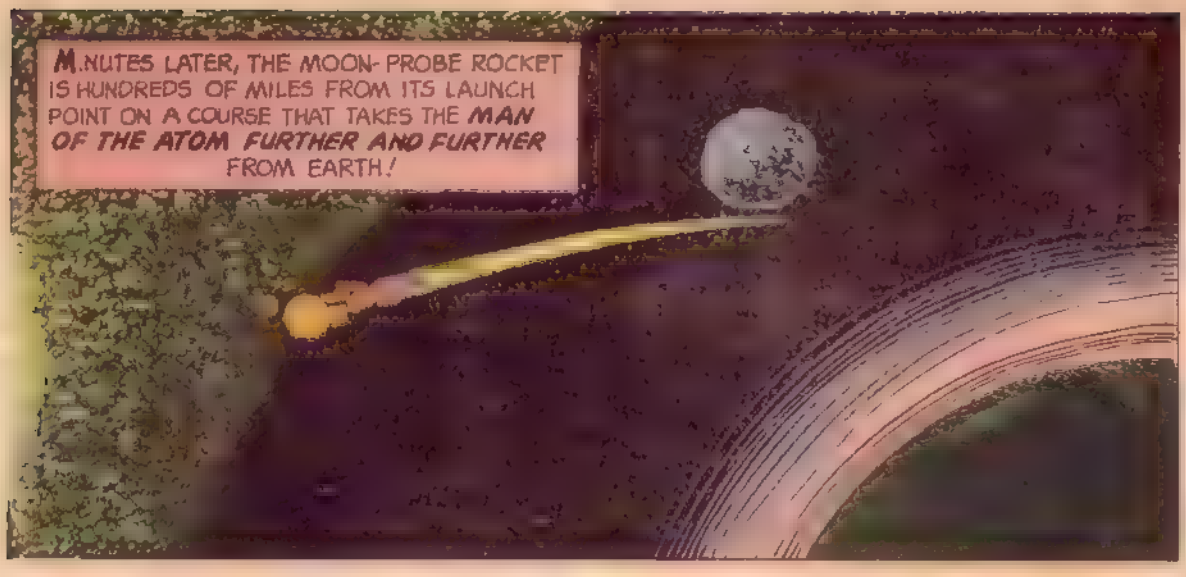

GAIL SIGHTS WITH GREAT PRECISION, THE HUMAN ATOM-SMASHER ALTERS THE CENTRAL NUCLEI OF THE IRON ATOMS IN THE COMET'S CORE

BY KNOCKING FOUR PROTONS AND FOUR NEUTRONS FROM THE IRON ATOMS, A NEW ELEMENT TITANIUM, IS PRODUCED! NOW NEUTRAL TO MAGNETIC FORCES, THE COMET IS NO LONGER UNDER NURO'S POWER...

BUT NURO'S REACTION IS STRANGE ..
PERFECT! HE'S USED . 000,000 ROENTGENS! HE COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY LEFT TO GET HIMSELF OUT OF ORBIT!
TAIL — 150,000 RTG
JOHA — 350,000 RTG
NUCLEUS — 500,000 RTG
TOTAL — 1,000,000 ROENTGENS
HE CAN'T JUST "FALL" BACK TO EARTH! HE'LL KEEP CIRCLING FOREVER!
ORBIT
COMETS A
NURO'S DEDUCTIONS ARE CORRECT. THE MAN OF THE ATOM IS MAROONED IN ORBIT, DOOMED TO CIRCLE EARTH LIKE A HUMAN SATELLITE!

SOON, THE WEAKENED SOLAR LANDS MOTIONLESS ON THE ORBITING COMET CORE...
AND NOW OBJECTIVE [illegible] A CERTAINTY!
THE TRAP WORKED!--THE ATOM MAN IS FINISHED!
IN ATOM VALLEY ALL HOPE IS ABANDONED
HE'S WEAKENING FAST... HE'LL NEVER COME BACK ALIVE!
I'M AFRAID YOU'RE RIGHT, GAIL! IF ONLY WE COULD HELP HIM!
BUT THERE SEEMS NO WAY TO HELP THE NEARLY LIFELESS SOLAR WHO LIES HELPLESSLY OUT OF REACH ON THE DEAD-COMET.

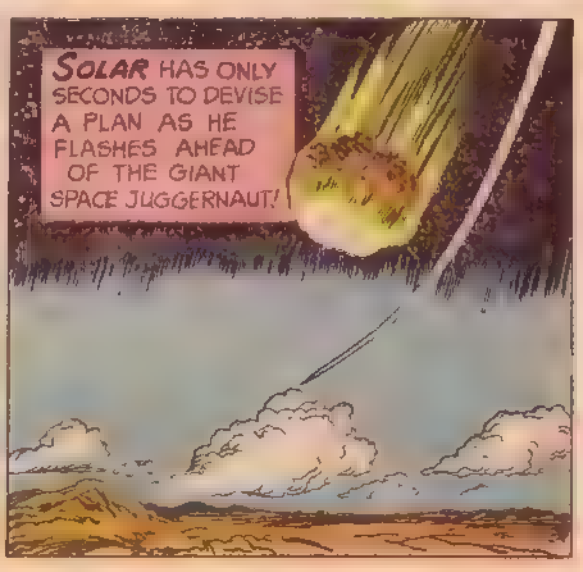

SUDDENLY A RAY OF HOPE! A DEAD SATELLITE IN ALMOST THE SAME ORBIT OVERTAKES THE COMET!
SOLAR
TENSELY, SOLAR REACHES AN ARM THROUGH A METEOR HOLE AND GROPES FOR AN IGNITION-SWITCH

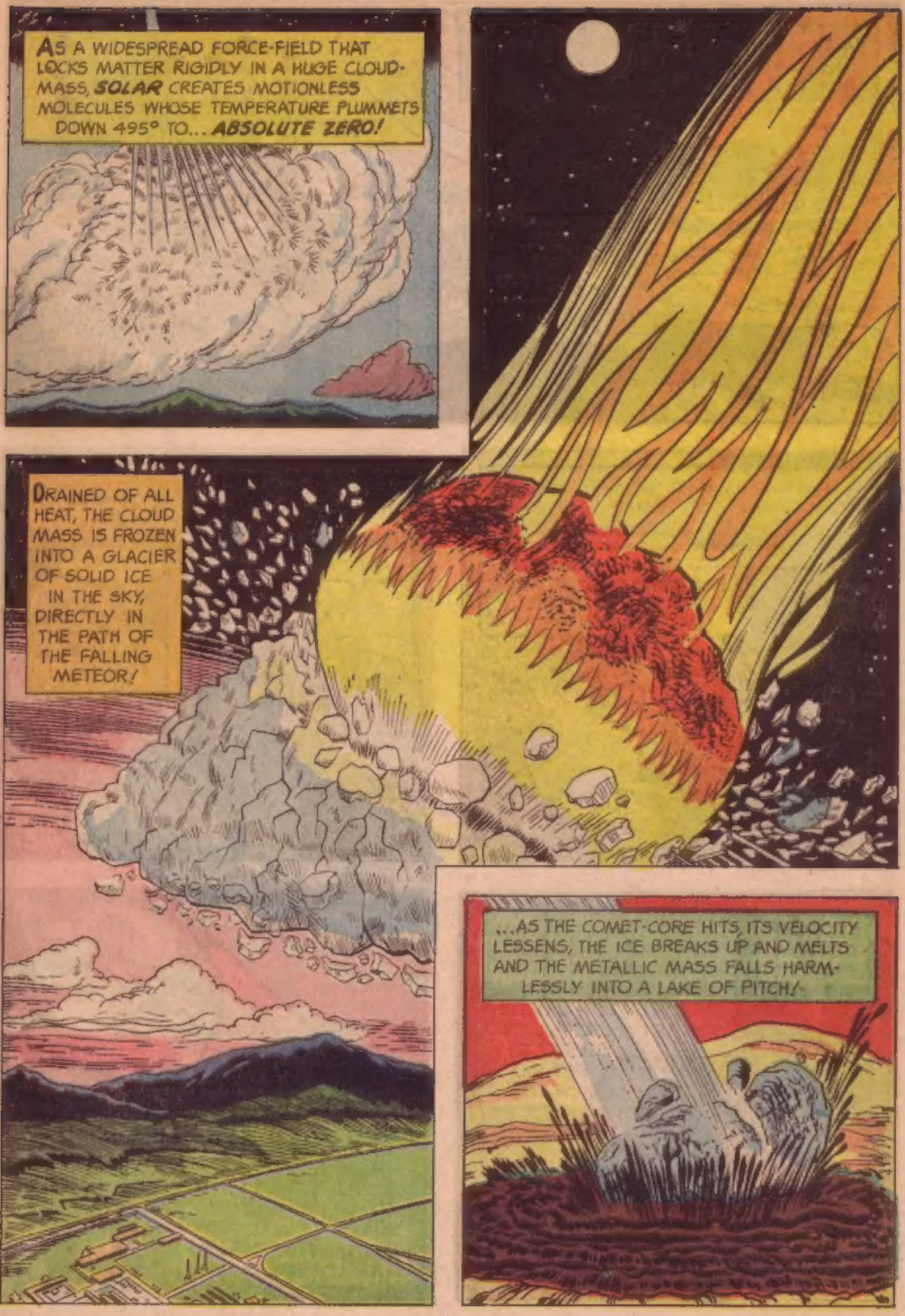

MINUTES LATER, THE MOON-PROBE ROCKET IS HUNDREDS OF MILES FROM ITS LAUNCH POINT ON A COURSE THAT TAKES THE MAN OF THE ATOM FURTHER AND FURTHER FROM EARTH!

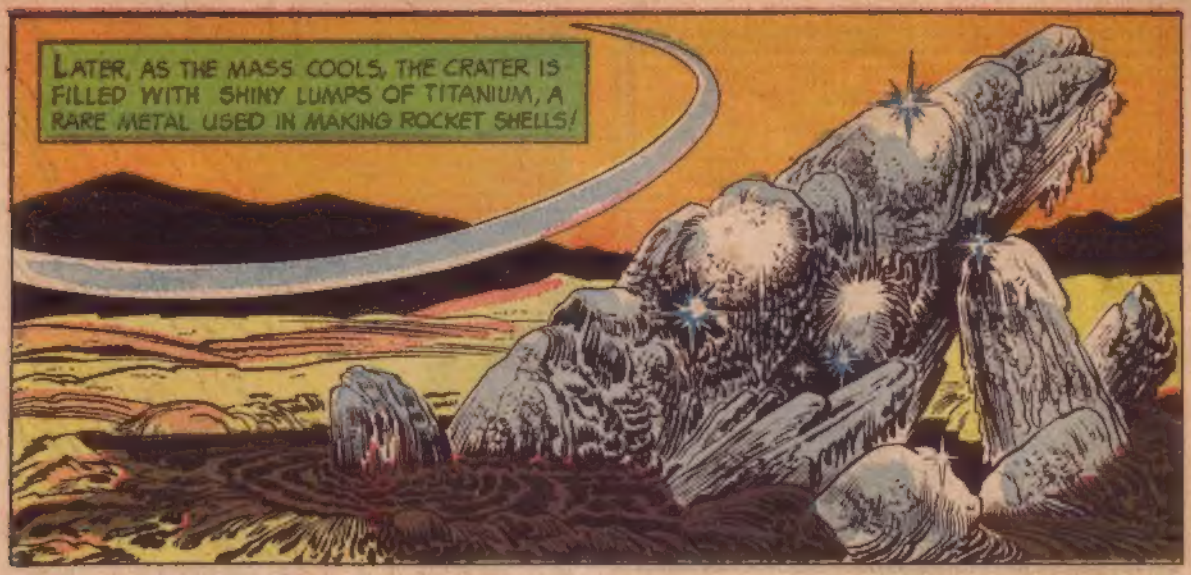
AS THE SPACE CRAFT PASSES THROUGH THE VAN ALLEN BELT, SOLAR SUDDENLY LEAPS OFF, HIS BODY ABSORBING THE POWERFUL RADIO ACTIVE ENERGY THAT SURROUNDS THE EARTH

HIS ENERGY RESTORED ONCE AGAIN, HE THEN STREAKS BACK TOWARD EARTH WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHT!

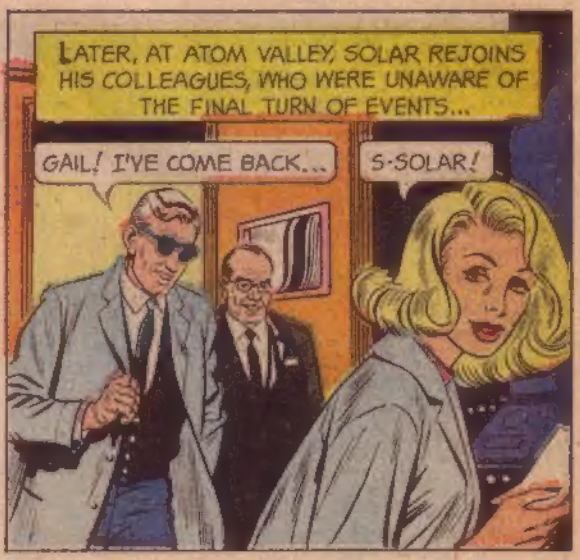
BUT ALSO DESCENDING AT METEORIC SPEED IS THE COMET CORE WHICH HAS NOW SPIRALED OUT OF ORBIT!

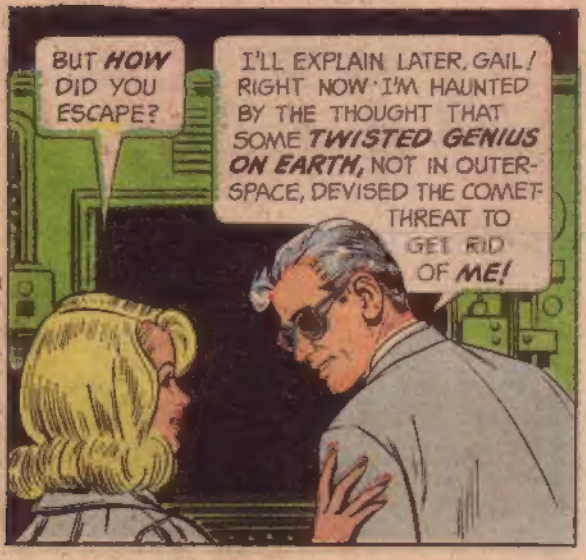

SOLAR HAS ONLY SECONDS TO DEVISE A PLAN AS HE FLASHES AHEAD OF THE GIANT SPACE JUGGERNAUT!


AS A WIDESPREAD FORCE-FIELD THAT LOCKS MATTER RIGIDLY IN A HUGE CLOUD-MASS, SOLAR CREATES MOTIONLESS MOLECULES WHOSE TEMPERATURE PLUMMETS DOWN 495° TO... ABSOLUTE ZERO!
DRAINED OF ALL HEAT, THE CLOUD MASS IS FROZEN INTO A GLACIER OF SOLID ICE IN THE SKY, DIRECTLY IN THE PATH OF THE FALLING METEOR!
...AS THE COMET-CORE HITS, ITS VELOCITY LESSENS, THE ICE BREAKS UP AND MELTS AND THE METALLIC MASS FALLS HARMLESSLY INTO A LAKE OF PITCH!


LATER, AS THE MASS COOLS, THE CRATER IS FILLED WITH SHINY LUMPS OF TITANIUM, A RARE METAL USED IN MAKING ROCKET SHELLS!

TO NURO, STUNNED BY WHAT HE HAS SEEN ON HIS MONITOR SCREEN THIS IS THE MOST CRUSHING BLOW OF ALL!
THAT TWO-LEGGED ATOMIC-PILE CAME BACK FROM THE DEAD TO... TO UTTERLY HUMILIATE ME!
SNAP!


LATER, AT ATOM VALLEY, SOLAR REJOINS HIS COLLEAGUES, WHO WERE UNAWARE OF THE FINAL TURN OF EVENTS...
GAIL! I'VE COME BACK...
S-SOLAR!


BUT HOW DID YOU ESCAPE?
I'LL EXPLAIN LATER, GAIL! RIGHT NOW I'M HAUNTED BY THE THOUGHT THAT SOME TWISTED GENIUS ON EARTH, NOT IN OUTER-SPACE, DEVISED THE COMET-THREAT TO GET RID OF ME!

A DOZEN DIFFERENT DIABOLICAL EVENTS BEAR THE STAMP OF A SINGLE EVIL MIND SEEKING WORLD POWER... AND MY DESTRUCTION! SOMEHOW, I MUST FIND OUT WHO THAT CRIMINAL MASTERMIND IS!

KEYS OF KNOWLEDGE

WILD ANIMALS of NORTH AMERICA

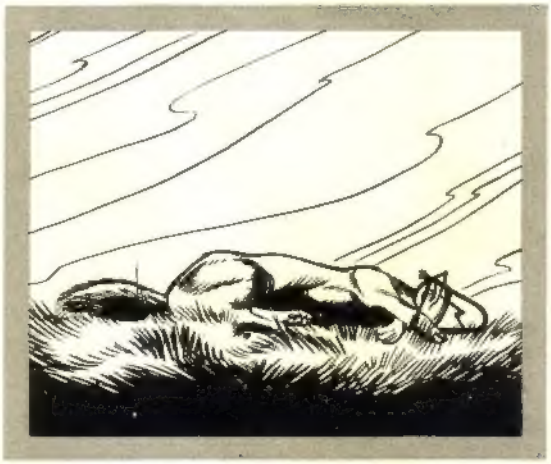
NUMBER 23

THE ARCTIC FOX

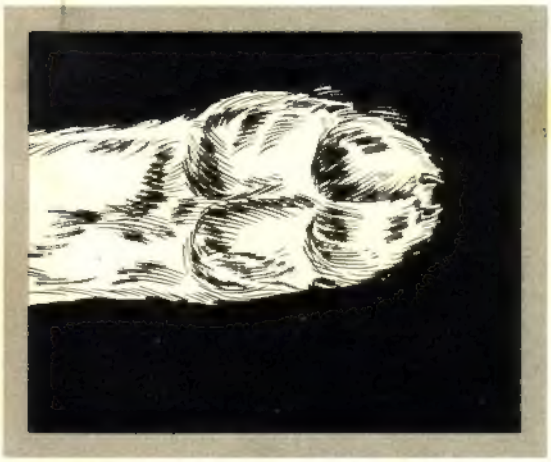
This is one of a series of information features in Gold Key Comics. Collect the whole series for useful knowledge.

The Arctic Fox, known also as the Blue Fox, is found in North America from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to southern Alaska.

In the winter the Arctic Fox is white. In summer its fur is brown. The Blue Fox keeps its blue-gray color the year around.



Because of their fine fur, they have been trapped almost to extinction. The use of artificial furs may help their population.



Arctic foxes have long white hairs on the soles of their feet. These help the animal to run on ice when pursuing its next meal.

In winter, Arctic and Blue Foxes feed upon dead seals and walruses. In summer, they dine on berries, birds, eggs and rodents.

SOLAR

PIN-UP